Nov 1,

INSIST ON

Bartlett-Bacon bills being passed. Insist on knowing where your Representatives in Congress stand. You have a right to know.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

VOL. 3. NO. 35 — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1913. — WHOLE NO. 139

INSIST ON

Your United States Senators and Representatives declaring themselves on the Bartlett-Bacon bills. You have a right to know.

TRIUMPH

NEW YORK FEDERATION WINS

Retires Fifty-Five Hostile State Legislators.

A. F. OF L. POLICY FOLLOWED

Compulsory Workmen's Compensation Law Indorsed by the People of the State.

Albany, N. Y., Nov. 29.—The State Federation of Labor went into the last political campaign determined to punish a goodly number of its enemies. The Labor News, the official journal of the New York State Federation of Labor, in commenting on the activities of the State Federation in this particular says: "The legislative enemies of a genuine workmen's compensation law were trounced at the polls on November 4 and the amendment to the state constitution to authorize a compulsory compensation law was adopted by an overwhelming vote. Out of the list of eighty-five legislators denounced by the State Federation as enemies of workmen's compensation, fifty-five were defeated for re-election. Those who succeeded in reaching the legislature again did so by such diminished pluralities as 65 instead of 4,660, 63 instead of 1,200, and so on. The Brooklyn Central Labor Union did some great work in the campaign. Out of a list of twelve unfair assemblymen in Kings County, that body, in co-operation with the State Federation of Labor, succeeded in retiring nine of the twelve to private life. In Buffalo all of the assemblymen who voted against the Federation bill were retired to private life except one. One unfortunate feature, however, was the defeat by a few votes of Assemblymen Edward Jackson. The railroads and the casualty insurance companies went after his scalp because of his activity in securing the enactment of the full crew law and promoting the State Federation's compensation bill, he being the introducer of both. One assemblyman, Edward Weil, of the twenty-second New York district, who, not only voted and spoke against the State Federation's compensation bill, but challenged organized labor to meet him at election day, is retired with his 2,000 majority of 1912 turned into a defeat of 1,660, and his place in the legislature is taken by Benjamine E. Moore, a union iron worker." The State Federation worked assiduously in all parts of the State, and its record of defeating fifty-five hostile assemblymen is a record that is worthy of emulation, and proves conclusively that the political policy adopted has borne fruits that could not have been secured in any other way. It has been a bitter fight, but the State Federation of New York has now the verdict of the people back of it, and a compulsory workmen's compensation law will be enacted by the State legislature.

TINNERS LOCKED OUT.

Aurora, Ill., Nov. 29.—The Master Tinners, or at least a portion of them, have opened warfare against their employes. It appears that some of the Master Tinners have become inoculated with the prevalent union-busting ailment called the "open-shop." Notices were recently posted in some of the shops to the effect that on and after a certain date the shops would be operated on the "open-shop" basis. Four of the shops, however, refused to join the "busters" and are at work doing a rushing business, as much of the business of the "open-shops" is coming to the firms who are able to handle work in the sheet metal line. The National Association of Manufacturers, so it is asserted, has a considerable part in the affair. It is claimed that the plan was to begin with the Tinners because that looked to be an easy job. The next in order was to be the Electricians, then the Painters, then the Carpenters and so on down the line. This program, however, had been mapped out to begin on January 1, but the impetuous Master Tinners, so obsessed with their union-busting program, could not wait and started the fight six weeks ahead of time. The union men of Aurora are not alarmed, as they are confident that the fight against the union Tinners will be so unsuccessful as to dampen the ardor of the other employers to such an extent that the union-busting carnival will be abandoned.

TEXTILE WORKERS WANT MORE.

Fall River, Mass., Nov. 29.—Definite action has been taken starting a movement for a general increase in wages of the 22,000 textile operatives in this city. Four of the unions have voted to ask the Textile Council to endorse their demands for an advance. The unions seeking the increase are the Weavers, Carders, Slasher Tenders and Spinners, representing three-fourths of the organized mill workers of Fall River. There has been a general feeling of unrest among the operatives for a considerable time, due to the fact that two of the largest corporations in the city have declared big dividends. One of the mills has paid a cash dividend of $800,000 and another mill a dividend of 50 per cent, which amounted to $175,000. Several other mills have also declared large dividends. This fact is responsible for the demand for increased wages, for the textile operatives maintain that if the concerns in the textile manufacturing business can pay these enormous and abnormal dividends then the operatives in the mills are entitled to consideration in the shape of a substantial increase in wages.

PRINTERS ARE PHILOSOPHERS.

Washington, Nov. 29.—A story that has running through it a vein of humor is to the effect that in the old days of hand composition a printer from New York, known as Pilgrim Haslett, wandered into a Pennsylvania town and asked the editor of a weekly paper for a job. "Well," said the editor, "I can put you to work, but I am afraid I cannot pay you much money." "Make me an offer," said Pilgrim. "All right, I can give you two meals a day at my house, you can sleep in the office on this lounge, and I'll take care of your laundry. Then if you need tobacco get it across the street at the grocery, they run an account with us, and up at the brewery you can get a can of beer whenever you like. Besides I will pay you $4 a week." "Gosh," said the Pilgrim, after repeating the offer to get it straight in his mind, "if I get all that what do I want with the $4?"

AIDING ELECTRICIANS.

Boise, Idaho, Nov. 29.—An effort is being made to secure a change in the scale of Electrical Workers who are employed at Arrow Rock on government work. The government is paying $3.40 and $3.50 per day and the regular scale of Union Electricians is $4 in this jurisdiction. The local union has taken the matter up with Senators Borah and Brady, as well as with Representatives French and Smith, at Washington, for the purpose of making an endeavor to have the government increase the wages of the Electrical Workers on the government works to $4 per day.

MINISTERS TAKE HAND.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Nov. 29.—The newspapers and other sources of information are being flooded with the story that the strike of the copper miners is over. This is far from the truth. The strike is so much alive that the Ministers' Association of Lansing at a recent meeting adopted a set of resolutions in which the governor of the state is called upon to appoint a commission for the purpose of making an investigation of the issues involved in the contest, and that the facts be given to the public. One section of the resolutions says: "We believe any person or persons who refuses to submit to the principle of arbitration in a dispute thereby raises suspicion against their own motives and their own case. We believe no body of men would continue to hold out as the Miners are doing in the face of approaching winter and through much suffering, unless they believe they have a great grievance which should be righted." It is evident that at least a portion of the people of the state of Michigan are of the opinion that the action of the copper operators is not one to be commended, but rather to be condemned.

TROLLEY MEN IN ARBITRATION.

Worcester, Mass., Nov. 29.—The arbitration board, which was formed to settle the controversy between the Worcester and Springfield Street Railway companies and members of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, has announced its decision. The organized employes demanded that a nine-hour day be made possible inside of eleven hours. The decision rendered by the board is in the nature of a compromise. For 20 per cent of the men the runs are so arranged as to provide for a nine in eleven hour day. Twenty per cent of the runs will remain as they were under the old agreement of nine and one-half hours to be completed in twelve hours, and the balance of the runs will be nine hours completed in eleven and one-half hours, nine hours to be completed in twelve hours, and nine and one-half hours to be completed in twelve hours. The board's decision includes the declaration that nine hours shall constitute a day's work, and that where possible the runs are to be so arranged that the nine hours will be worked in eleven hours, with extra time to be paid for work done in all cases in excess of nine hours. Other rulings made by the board are in the interest of the employes. While the employes, of course, are not satisfied with the decision of the board, yet the award will be accepted in good faith as the policy of the organization has been to accept and carry out decisions of arbitration boards.

RECENT RAILROAD WRECKS.

Washington, Nov. 29.—A few of the recent railroad wrecks, selected at random, are as follows: Twenty persons were killed outright and 250 injured when a Central of Georgia passenger train went through a trestle four miles east of Clayton, Ala. Three men were killed and at least one person was injured in a freight wreck on the Grand Trunk Railroad, near Wanstead, Ontario. A passenger train on the Seaboard Air Line collided with a freight train, killing two trainmen and injuring twelve passengers. Twenty-six passengers were injured, fourteen seriously, and two fatally, when a passenger train on the Allegan Division of the Pierre-Marquette Railroad plunging down a fifteen-foot embankment near Holland, Mich., spreading rails causing the accident. An engineer and fireman were killed in a freight wreck on the Buffalo and Susquehanna Railroad, near Galston, Pa.

JAIL EMPLOYMENT AGENT.

Denver, Nov. 29.—There is a law in the state which requires that when men are sought to take the places of strikers these facts must be specifically given to those offered employment. A local employment agency in its effort to secure strike breakers to be shipped to the Southern coal fields, advertised in the papers for coal miners, but failed to mention that a strike was in progress. The deputy state labor commissioner swore out a warrant against the agency and the proporietors were promptly sent to jail. The penalty is one year in prison and a discretionary fine. One of the coal companies here also inserted a similar ad, but on the statement that the men were wanted for coal mines in another state enforcement has not yet been filed against this company, and will not be until an investigation is made to determine whether the statement made is correct or not.

SCORES WHIPPING CUSTOM.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Injunction proceedings against the State of Delaware to prevent the whipping of prisoners at the New Castle County workshop, has been asked for in a resolution introduced in the House by Representative Evans of Montana. The resolution stated that six prisoners, all convicted of robbery, were whipped at New Castle on November 8, and two of them were to receive more lashes later on. Representative Evans' resolution calls the punishment a violation of the constitution in that it was cruel and a relic of medieval barbarism, not generally practiced in civilized countries. The President and Attorney General are also asked to take the necessary steps to stop the proposed punishment.

ADOPT PENSION SYSTEM.

Indianapolis, Nov. 29.—The pension proposition submitted to the membership of the Bricklayers and Masons' International Union has been carried by a substantial majority. The pension fund will be maintained by a weekly assesment of 25 cents on each member of the organization. After a fund has been created pensions will be allowed any member who has reached the age of sixty years and who has been in good standing in the union for twenty years, if he is unable to obtain sustaining employment. Any member who has been in good standing for ten years and has become incapacitated for work by accident or ill health will also receive a pension. The amount of the pension will be $5 per week, with payments made monthly.

TEAMSTERS STRIKE.

Indianapolis, Nov. 29.—A strike of union teamsters in this city, long threatened, is now on. Many of the employers, however, have granted the union's demands for higher wages.

CAMP FOLLOWERS

UNION BUSTING SATELLITES

"Business" Men Form Alliance to Assist Operators.

ARE BUT COMMERCIAL PAWNS

The New David Hopes to Be a "Strong Moral Force" in Defeating Miners.

Calumet, Mich., Nov. 29.—The "substantial" business men of this city have organized a Citizens' Alliance, having for its purpose "The settlement of the miners' strike in this territory." It is asserted that the Alliance will bend its efforts to the end of destroying unionism in this part of the country. In a bombastic manner the membership of this new organization denounced the organization of the Copper Miners as a "menace to the future development and welfare of the district and as opposed to good government and good citizenship." It further professes profound sympathy for the miners, and purposes to make itself felt as a "strong moral force," and also materially assist the strikers who return to work to regain what they have lost in the strike and relieve any distress which may follow the period of idleness. And now it is in order for the Calumet Citizens' Alliance to explain to the public and to the Miners the great "regard" which the Copper Companies have for them. It must also explain to the Miners that an investment of $1,250,000, made forty-two years ago and yielding in profits only $200,000,000, is really a starvation investment, and that these Copper magnates, similar to the anthracite coal magnate Baer, have been designated as the trustees of these vast copper interests by some "Divine authority."

REOPENS FIGHT.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Representative A. P. Gardner of Massachusetts has reopened his fight in Congress to restrict immigration into the United States. He has offered a resolution in the House, asking the Secretary of Labor for data as to the number of aliens arriving in the United States during October, who were certified by public health service physicians and surgeons as physically or mentally unfit for admission, and to state the nature of such defects. Representative Gardiner is a strong advocate of restricted immigration and, as a member of the House Immigration Committee, he supported in the Sixty-second Congress the Dillingham-Burnett Bill, which imposed on all immigrants over sixteen years of age a literacy test, requiring ability to read and write in some known language as a condition precedent to admission to this country. As is well known, this bill passed both the House and the Senate, but was vetoed by President Taft. The Senate overrode the veto, but the House, by a close vote, sustained the President. The same bill is now pending in this Congress and will undoubtedly be taken up during the early part of the long session, which convenes the fore part of December.

GOVERNOR IN TROUBLE.

Denver, Nov. 29.—State Auditor Kenehan has refused to sign certificates of indebtedness with which to pay the expenses of the state militia in the Southern Colorado strike zone. Kenehan at the present time is a delegate to the American Federation of Labor convention at Seattle, Wash., and the Governor, who ordered out the militia, has been unable to secure any money with which to pay the expenses of this military strike-breaking excursion. The Governor and the Attorney General have filed mandamus proceedings in the Supreme Court to compel the deputy state auditor to sign the certificates. Auditor Kenehan has asserted that he will not sign any of the certificates issued for the purpose of paying the expenses of the militia on strike duty until the highest court in the state commands him to do so. This undoubtedly means that a contest of considerable length will be had prior to a settlement of this controversy.

URGE PRESIDENT TO ACT.

Washington, Nov. 29.—President Wilson is being urged by the United States Senators from Colorado, as well as Representative Keating of that State, to institute an investigation of the strike of the coal miners now in progress in Southern Colorado. The contest has settled down to what appears to be an endurance test and the price of coal has been materially raised, so much so that the city of Denver is taking steps looking toward the operation of a municipal coal mine. The Department of Labor has used its influence to bring about a settlement, as well also as has the congressional delegation, but the big coal companies assert that they will never deal with the United Mine Workers, and there the matter stands.

PLAN MERGER.

Pittsburgh, Nov. 29.—According to statements made here by railroad men there appears to be a plan on foot whereby 40,000 employes of the Pennsylvania Railroad East of Pittsburgh are to form a close alliance. It is stated that the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, Order of Railway Conductors, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Locomotive Firemen, and the Order of Railway Telegraphers are to be the constituent organizations. This move is being made, it is said, for the purpose of forming a closer relationship among the men employed on the Pennsylvania Railroad, but will not change in any manner the affiliations of the employes with their national organizations.

PUDDLERS GET CUT.

Pittsburgh, Nov. 29.—The scale of wages received by the puddlers is based on the selling price of bar iron and wages are readjusted every two months. At the last conference the puddlers received a cut of 60 cents a ton, and finishers 6 per cent, based upon the results of the bi-monthly examination. The reduction of the puddlers and finishers will prevail during November and December, becoming effective November 1. For the past sixty days bar iron has been selling on a 1.35 card. During nearly all of this year puddlers have been receiving $7 per ton.

NAVY YARD FIREMEN PROTEST.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Vigorous protests from the members of the Firemen's Union employed at the Navy Yard against the recent cut of 8 cents a day in their wages, has been made. Only a few weeks ago the firemen were granted an increase in pay from $2.24 to $2.40 per day. The wage scales in navy-yards are arrived at by computing the average wage in other similar industries in the vicinity where the navy yard is located. The firemen contend that if the wage rate was raised from $2.24 to $2.48, arrived at in the manner explained, there has arisen no occasion since that time to make a reduction in their wages.

CONTINUE ASSESSMENT.

Indianapolis, Nov. 29.—By an overwhelming majority, in fact, by a vote of over 7 to 1, the United Mine workers have voted by referendum to continue the payment of a 50 cents per month assessment to support the strikes now on in Colorado and British Columbia. In commenting upon the large majority by which the assessment is continued, the United Mine Workers' Journal says: "Be blessed, our miners who, in their daily dangers, in their humble poverty, never fail to reveal the Christian spirit of brotherhood, and, according to the occasion, be it a disaster or an industrial struggle, are always ready to sacrifice their lives or divide their thin loaf of bread."

AND NOW IT'S HORSEPOWER.

Washington, Nov. 29.—While it has been not uncommon for employers and trust magnates to denominate labor as a "commodity," similar to a side of pork or a sack of flour, yet it has remained for the Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to add still another significant phrase to the nomenclature of grad-grinds. It appears that a recent investigation was made in the bureau with reference to health conditions, and in discussing this particular phase the director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing said, referring to the girl assistants of the printers: "It is hard work to be a printers' assistant. If the young women are not healthy and strong the work is too much for them. 'Horsepower' is what these girls who work as printers' assistants must have, and 'horsepower' is what we would make a requirement of their appointment. There is no use in putting a race horse to draw a truck, and healthy girls are required." There are 500 girls employed as printers' assistants, and they are on their feet throughout the long hours of the workday. Most of the present employees of the bureau are vigorous, and the investigation which has been made was not especially aimed at them, so it is said, but to insure that future appointments shall be properly made. The phrase "horsepower," in referring to employees, is a new one, and is worthy of a conspicuous place in the hall of fame.

DENVER DISCUSSING TEMPLE.

Denver, Colo., Nov. 29.—At the last meeting of the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly, it was reported that approximately $25,000 per year was paid out by the labor organizations in rent for meeting halls and offices necessary for the conduct of the movement. This statement precipitated a discussion relative to the building of a labor temple and as a result a committee has been appointed for the purpose of taking the preliminary steps to raise funds to be invested in a site. Numerous efforts have been made heretofore, but no tangible results have ever been accomplished, but with the present activity of the unions throughout the country providing themselves with homes the sentiment is beginning to crystallize in this city, with the result that an earnest effort will now be made to lay the foundation for an adequate building in which to house the unions of the Queen City.

UNION MAN DEFEATED.

Spokane, Wash., Nov. 29.—Dave Coates, former Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, who has been one of the commissioners of this city for over three years, has been defeated for re-election. Dave Coates is a member of the Typographical Union, and during his incumbency in office not only served the city with conspicuous ability, but also maintained a wage rate for unskilled labor of $3 per day. During his administration efforts were made to reduce the $3 rate, but Coates fought valiantly to have it retained. This brought to Coates intense opposition from the contractors and other so-called business men, which resulted in his defeat, but the measure which he sought for, continuance of the $3 scale, carried by an overwhelming vote. While he has been defeated himself, one of the important principles which he fought for has been indorsed by the citizens of Spokane.

TO RESUME LOBBY INQUIRY.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Plans for concluding the Senate lobby investigation are to be considered at a meeting of the lobby committee to be held soon. It is expected the committee will resume hearings later and representatives of the American Federation of Labor, who have requested an opportunity to explain the legislative activities of the Federation, will appear. A number of other witnesses have also asked for hearings.

CUBA BARS M'MANIGAL.

Havana, Nov. 29.—Ortie McManigal, confessed criminal degenerate, will not be allowed to land in Cuba, according to a statement emanating from the State Department. When it was learned that McManigal was en route to Cuba, the Cuban secret service was ordered to make a special effort to see that the degenerate did not pass the immigration officers.

URGING ANTI-STRIKE LAW.

Columbus, Nov. 29.—Gov. Cox is being besieged by a so-called committee of Cincinnati business men, representing the Industrial Peace Association, to recommend anti-strike legislation to the General Assembly, which convenes in January. The Industrial Peace Association is undoubtedly a lineal descendant of the National Association of Manufacturers. At least, its methods show a hereditary taint. It appears that because the union movement throughout the State, and especially Cincinnati, has been going forward at a rapid rate during the past few months some of the grad-grind employers are becoming alarmed. The employers of labor in Ohio and elsewhere can rest assured that the organized labor movement of this country is not going to permit a few whilom union busters to deprive them of their constitutional right, and the anti-strike measure proposed by the union busters will undoubtedly meet a timely death.

NATURAL

TROLLEYMEN GET INCREASE

Former Strike Did Not Succeed, but Raises Follow.

STRIKES ARE NEVER LOST

Obscure Publication Takes a Slam at the Organizations of Labor.

Omaha, Nov. 29.—The Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Company has announced an increase in wages. The employes on this line on January 1 are to receive a flat increase of 1 per cent per hour. After the first of next year the beginner in the street railway service will be paid 24 cents an hour and will have his pay raised 1 cent an hour each year until the fifth year, when he will be receiving 28 cents per hour. After the tenth year 29 cents per hour is to be paid. It is claimed that the raise, to be effective January 1, will bring the pay up to 1 cent an hour more than was asked in the Trolleymen's strike three years ago. Some three years ago a strike occurred as the result of a demand for an increase. The strike was not successful, but this is the second time that an increase in wages has been voluntarily given since that contest. An Omaha publication called "The Mediator" flings its editorial hat into the ring. This paper is not rightly named, for it says in speaking of the strike three years ago: "The company did not wish to be dominated by a crew of walking delegates whose particular business is to stir up strikes for members of labor unions and then leave them to fight their own battles. These same walking delegates never fail to draw fat salaries and good expense accounts." It will be noticed, however, that as a result of the strike the company has increased the wages twice since that event. Superficial individuals frequently maintain that strikes are ineffective, but history tells an entirely different story.

UPHOLSTERERS STRIKE.

Baltimore, Nov. 29.—For a number of weeks an organizer for the Upholsterers has been building up the local union and has been successful in securing a large membership. Negotiations were entered into with the wholesale upholstering concerns for the purpose of securing an increased wage and better working conditions. A number of the firms recognized the justice of the demands of the Upholsterers and signed an agreement, which concedes a 7 1-2 per cent increase in wages, a satisfactory piece-work scale, and half holidays on Saturday, this scale to be effective January 1, 1914. A number of other concerns, while admitting that men were entitled to an increase and asserting that they were willing to grant an increase, yet they refused to name any specific amount. Consequently the men employed by these firms came out on strike. Notwithstanding the fact that a portion of the Upholsterers are on strike, the fact that a number of the larger shops have entered into an agreement with the union is considered a victory, and the other concerns will undoubtedly meet the new scale before long.

AGAINST BRUTALITY.

St. Louis, Nov. 29.—One of the largest mass meetings ever held in this city under the auspices of the Central Trades and Labor Union took place on the evening of November 21. This meeting was called for the purpose of publicly protesting against the actions of the police in the Walters and Lady Garment Workers' contest for better conditions. The meeting was held in the large auditorium of the city hall and was taxed beyond its limit, a large number of people not being able to get inside of the auditorium. These two contests have been on in St. Louis for a considerable length of time and notwithstanding the efforts of the police to discourage the strikers, excellent progress has been made and a final victory for the strikers is predicted. The meeting passed resolutions against the activity of the police department in hounding the strikers and urged that the public assist in securing for the striking workers a square deal.

PRINTERS FOR FREE TEXT BOOKS

San Antonio, Nov. 29.—The local Typographical Unions in the state of Texas are going to unitedly insist upon having Texas text books printed in Texas. At the semi-annual conference of the Texas State Printers' Council this matter was further discussed and plans adopted for carrying on a campaign for the purpose of making an actuality of their desires. Each local union was directed by the conference to interest the other local unions in its particular jurisdiction in order that a general demand may be forthcoming from the wage earners of the state, and also for the purpose of prevailing upon the Texas State Federation of Labor to make this a preferential measure.

TO REDUCE MINE RISKS.

Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 29.—Governor Hatfield, exercised by the recent report of the chief of the State Department of Mines, in which it was shown that one coal miner is killed each working day in West Virginia, has evolved a plan which he hopes will lessen the mine risks. The governor plans to have the state department of mines place the mines of the state in three classifications, viz.: non-hazardous, hazardous and extra-hazardous. It is further planned to have the mine inspectors spend more time in mines known to be hazardous. Operators who provide safeguards for employes will be allowed a lower rate of liability under the workmen's compensation act.

BIG ELECTRIC STRIKE.

Schenectady, Nov. 29.—Over 14,000 employes of the General Electric Company are on strike. There has been no demand for shorter hours or more pay, but the company commenced a discriminative policy which brought about the present condition. Two members of the union, both of whom were very active, were laid off recently, the company claiming that their removal was a part of a policy of retrenchment. The laying off of these two union members, however, was taken by the general membership as an effort on the part of the company to discriminate against union men and women.

LINEMEN STRIKE.

Toledo, Ohio, Nov. 29.—A large number of linemen and trouble men on the Big Con struck for an increase in wages and shorter hours. The company has imported a number of linemen and troublemen from Cincinnati, but on being acquainted with the fact that a strike was on they refused to go to work. The street lamp trimmers, bonding department employees and chauffeurs employed by the company have also joined the strikers. The men on strike are of the opinion that the contest will be of short duration.

FIGHTING SEAMEN'S BILL.

Washington, Nov. 29.—The shipping interests are busily engaged in organizing a campaign to defeat the passage of the Seamen's Bill in the House of Representatives. The La Follette bill passed by the Senate is considered to be a fair, just, and equitable measure, but the shipping interests, that have so long been permitted to make their own regulations, are objecting to many of the features of the new bill. One of the main objections that the shipping combine has is the provision requiring that every passenger-carrying steamer must carry enough lifeboats and rafts to accommodate its entire passenger list, further specifying that each lifeboat must be in charge of two trained seamen, who must have had three years' experience. It is not apprehended that in the present state of mind of Congress, and in view of the tremendous loss of life on the high seas as the result of undermanned vessels, that Congress will fail to pass this measure, which provides against malicious neglect on the part of many vessel owners.

TO CUT LIVING PRICE.

Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 29.—The people of this city have voted in favor of an ordinance granting the local traction company the right to run trolley freight trains along certain streets of the city at night in order to provide a quick transportation system for the produce of nearby country districts. It is expected that this plan will result in a reduction of the cost of food that will come with the offering of a market to nearby farmers. It is believed by those who have promoted this scheme that not only Cleveland, but many other Ohio towns will get the benefit of the trolley market freight and package system. The ordinance provides that the freight cars may be moved singly or in trains of three, including the motor car, and shall be operated only between the hours of 2 a. m. and 6 a. m. and between the hours of 8 p. m. and 10 p. m. No bulk freight, only package goods, is to be carried in cars, packages, of course, meaning baskets, boxes, barrels, &c. There is to be no hauling of stone, coal, iron, and like commodities. It is anticipated that the trolley freight rates may be a trifle higher than those of the steam railroads, but it is believed that the facilities with which products can be handled, will overbalance any difference in the rates between steam and trolley roads.

OREGON MINIMUM WAGE.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 29.—The first state wide welfare conference, held under the Oregon Minimum Wage Law, has been brought to a close after a series of hearings which began on October 15. The recommendations of the conference have been formulated and made public. Concerning women workers, wages and working conditions, they are as follows: A minimum wage for experienced women workers of $8.25 a week; a minimum wage for inexperienced women workers of $6 a week; a maximum apprenticeship for beginners before joining the experienced class of one year; a maximum of fifty-four hours to constitute a working week for women, 8:30 p. m. to be the limit to which women may labor in mercantile establishments and laundries. Under the law the commission must now give four weeks' notice of a public hearing at which the recommendations of the conference may be discussed by persons interested. The Commission will then adopt, reject or amend the recommendations and promulgate its rulings.

TO STUDY LABOR MOVEMENT.

Los Angeles, Nov. 29.—The University of Southern California has appealed to the Central Labor Council to aid in the work of making its course in trade unionism a success. It is the plan of the head of the department of economics to give his students a thorough knowledge of the purpose, form of organization, theory, and goal of organized labor. A thorough study of tactics will also be made. In the carrying out of the plan it is intended that the students shall visit the meetings of local unions, attend mass meetings, and become acquainted with the workings of labor unions.

ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S DAY.

Little Rock, Nov. 29.—Agreeable to suggestions which have been made to Governor Hays he has decided to issue a proclamation making the 10th of December Children's day in the state of Arkansas. The Union Sentinel says that "Governor Hays is to be congratulated upon taking a stand on a matter of such vast importance. Not only is Governor Hays to be congratulated, but the state of Arkansas is to be congratulated upon having a governor who has the foresight and courage to issue a proclamation of this character."

ABILITY RECOGNIZED.

San Francisco, Nov. 29.—William J. French, a member of the State Industrial Accident Board, has been appointed a director of the National Council for Industrial Safety. This organization has a very large membership, including representatives from all branches of industrial work and other associations interested in conservation of life. Mr. French, who is a member of the Typographical Union, has the honor of being the first representative of the committee on the Pacific Coast.

MINE WORKERS GET ADVANCE.

Halifax, N. S., Nov. 29.—An increase of 6 percent to all workmen now earning under $2 a day as employees of the Dominion Coal Company will be granted January 1, in accordance with an agreement that has been reached between the company and the employees. About 10,000 men are involved. The present wage scale expires at the end of the year and negotiations for a more satisfactory contract for the coming three years were begun in September.

SPONGERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

New York, Nov. 29.—The strike of the 600 members of the Cloth Spongers and Examiners' Union has been settled. The strike seriously threatened to tie up most of the city's garment industries, since the examiners and spongers have to inspect and shrink garment cloth before it can be made up. Practically all of the demands of the union were granted, but there were some questions which will be referred to a board of arbitration for settlement.

ONWARD

LABOR CONGRESS ADJOURNS

Open Forum of A. F. of L. Concludes Its Work.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHANGES

Philadelphia Secures the 1914 Convention, Fort Worth Being Only Opponent.

Washington, Nov. 29.—The thirtieth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor held at Seattle, Wash., is now history. On the last day the following officers were elected: Samuel Gompers, President; First Vice President, James Duncan; Second Vice President, James O'Connell; Third Vice President, Dennis A. Hayes; Fourth Vice President, Joseph H. Valentine; Fifth Vice President, John R. Alpine; Sixth Vice President, H. B. Perham; Seventh Vice President, John P. White; Eighth Vice President, Frank Duffy; Treasurer, John B. Lennon; Secretary, Frank Morrison. John Mitchell and William D. Huber voluntarily retired as members of the Council. John P. White, President of the United Mine Workers, was elected to succeed John Mitchell and Frank Duffy, Secretary of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of William D. Huber. A test of strength between the trade unionists and the Socialists came in the election of one of the fraternal delegates to the British Trade Union Congress. William D. Mahon, President of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, was elected over Frederick L. Wheeler, a socialist and member of the Brotherhood of Carpenters' delegation, by a vote of 14,603 to 3,634. The second delegate to the British Trade Union Congress, Matthew Woll, of the Photo Engravers' Union, was elected without opposition. Mortimer Donoghue, President of the Montana State Federation of Labor, was elected fraternal delegate to the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress. The 1914 convention will be held in Philadelphia, Pa., that city winning against Fort Worth by a vote of 10,634 to 8,432. This convention did a most extraordinary amount of work during the two weeks' session.

"KEEN KUTTER" CONVICT BRAND

Sioux City, Iowa, Nov. 29.—The President of the State Federation of Labor, J. H. Strief, has filed a protest with Gov. Clarke and Senator McColl of the Board of Prison Control of Des Moines against the Simmons Hardware Company labels on farm tools made in the state penitentiary. This firm's main establishment is located in St. Louis, and is the vendor of an extended line of goods comprising farming implements, cutlery, &c., sold under the brand known as "Keen Kutter." The president of the State Federation asserted that he could furnish evidence that tools made by convict labor at Fort Madison are labeled Dymond-Simmons "Keen Kutter," and distributed from the firms' Sioux City and St. Louis establishments. The governor agreed that an investigation should be made at once and ordered the Board of Control to act. The state farm tools contract is with the Iowa Tool Company. It is a matter of common knowledge that much, if not all, of the products handled by the Simmons concerns are made under contract either with little known manufacturers or with prison labor contractors. The State Federation proposes, through the investigation to be made, to give wide publicity to the facts. The governor and Board of Control have also agreed to satisfactorily adjust the matter of convict labor competing with free labor at Fort Madison.

CITY COUNCIL TAKES A HAND.

Philadelphia, Nov. 29.—The City Council has taken a hand in the efforts being made to obtain a settlement of the Garment Workers' strike in this city. A resolution was adopted, providing for the appointment of a committee of state and city officials and representative business men to hold meetings at which the strikers and manufacturers will have an opportunity to present their grievances and arguments. Representatives of the strikers have announced their intention of appearing at the meeting of the business men who are investigating the strike and its causes, but the manufacturers declare they will continue to ignore the committee. When the strike was called more than three months ago nearly 5,000 operatives responded. Since then several manufacturers have granted the demand of their employes for increased wages, and many of the workers have returned to their former places. There are, however, about 3,000 strikers still out.

DECADENT NATIONAL UNIONISM.

St. Thomas, Can., Nov. 29.—National unionism in this city is on its last legs. The blacksmiths and helpers in the Michigan Central Railroad shops, who withdrew from their international organization and secured a charter in the so-called Canadian Federation of Labor, have decided to return to their legitimate parent body. One trial has served to convince them that national unionism is worse than useless. The recent move of the management of the railroad to introduce the piecework system into the local shops proved the [illegible] pendent and restricted unionism. At one time there were several organizations here that were prevailed upon to leave their international unions, but it did not take them long to find out their mistake and the result has been that they have all returned and the local movement today is more united and stronger than ever.

OPPOSE LABOR PARTY.

Seattle, Nov. 29.—A resolution calling upon the American Federation of Labor to take the preliminary steps to launch a labor party was defeated by a very large majority. The committee reported on that question as follows: "For the present we recommend continuation and development of labor's non-partisan political position, namely, that the program and policy declared by the American Federation of Labor as authorized by its conventions, through the Executive Council and the organized workers throughout the country, be re-affirmed, and we urge that this program and policy be pursued in subsequent campaigns." This recommendation was adopted by a vote of 189 to 15.

CO-OPERATIVE SHINGLE MILL.

Everett, Wash., Nov. 29.—The co-operative system is being given a try-out in the operation of a Shingle Mill near this city by the members of the Shingle Weavers' and Timber Workers' International Union. Members of the shingle crew took over the plant on the co-operative plan after the mill had been shut down. The plant was bought outright from the former owners and it is asserted that so far the enterprise appears to be successful.

UNION LABEL TRADES DEPARTMENT DECIDES UNIVERSAL LABEL AND DESIGN TO BE IMPRACTICAL

(The Special Committee's Report Was Adopted Unanimously by the Union Label Trades Department Convention at Seattle)

To the Delegates to the Sixth Convention of the Union Label Trades Department, Seattle, Washington:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the special Committee on Universal Label and Universal Design appointed at the last Convention held in Rochester, N. Y., which Convention authorized this Committee to make an investigation during the year and report the results of the same to this Convention, beg leave to submit the following for your consideration and action.

Our instructions were embodied in the report of this Committee to the Rochester Convention, which we quote herewith:

Instructions Guiding Your Committee.

"To the Fifth Convention of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: Your special committee, appointed on the recommendation of the President of this Department to consider the question of a universal label or a universal design for combination with present labels, has had several sessions, and has gone into the subject committed to it as extensively and thoroughly as was possible with the data at hand, and the limited time at the disposal of the committee; and it is the unanimous conclusion of the committee that it will not be possible to present to this convention as comprehensive and thorough-going a report as the importance of the subject demands and the requirements of the question make advisable. Your committee recommends, therefore, that it be continued with the following instructions:

"That prior to the assembling of the sixth convention of this Department, the committee make exhaustive and painstaking investigation of the universal label proposition and the universal design proposition; that officers of international unions having labels, shop cards or buttons be requested to furnish the committee their views on the universal label, or universal design, especially as applied to the product of their trade, and that these views be accompanied by opinions from their attorneys as to the legality and practicability of the universal label or design in that particular trade; that the committee be authorized to gather such other information and data as in the opinion of the committee will be valuable in connection with the consideration of the general subject; that the committee be also authorized to procure a legal opinion from an attorney of national reputation as to label registration and issuance; that the committee be authorized to meet at least one month prior to the assembling of the sixth convention and at that time consider all of the data and information that has been collected, compile its report, have this report printed and placed in the hands of the delegates to the sixth convention prior to the assembling of that convention.

"Your committee is of the opinion that carrying out the program as outlined herein, together with such other measures as may in the meantime be suggested to the committee, or initiated or approved by the committee, the important question of the universal label, or universal design, will be before the sixth convention with a comprehensive report and accompanying data that will enable the convention to arrive at a conclusion that will be generally acceptable to the label trades and that will be of value to the International organizations affiliated with this label department and the trade union movement generally.

"The secretary of this Department is a member of the special committee, and therefore the machinery of the Department will be at the disposal of the committee in the performance of the mission referred to it."

Data, Statistics and Legal Opinions.

In compliance with the instructions of the last Convention the Committee prepared lists of questions dealing separately with the questions of Universal Label and Universal Design. The lists of questions on both subjects are hereby submitted to you for your information. The lists were printed in January of this year and were then sent to the sixty-six International Unions who issue union labels, store or shop cards or buttons, together with a letter urging that they be given serious consideration by the organization addressed, and the blanks filled out and returned to the office of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Department, who is also the Secretary of this Committee.

Universal Label Questions.

Has your organization taken any action either in convention or by the executive officers on the subject of a universal label?

Is your organization in favor of or opposed to a universal label?

What effect would the adoption of a universal label have upon the union label, store or shop card of your craft?

In the event of a universal label being adopted or recommended would your organization surrender the right to some central authority for the issuance of this universal label upon the product of your members?

Does your organization consider a universal label to be practical in your particular trade?

Have you the advice of your attorney as to the legality of a universal label? If not, will you obtain the opinion of an attorney as to the legality of the same, and forward the same to this office? Can you supply us with any other information on this subject matter and submit any suggestions which can be given to the committee for their information and guidance?

Name of organization..

Address of secretary..

Universal Design Questions.

Has your organization taken any action upon a universal design to be attached to the label, store or shop card of your organization, either in convention or by your executive officers?

Is your organization favorable or opposed to the adoption of a universal design?

If favorable to a universal design, kindly suggest what, in your opinion, would be the most practical?

In what manner could a universal design be attached to your label, store or shop card, that would make it practical and not eliminate any of the present features of your emblem?

Will you obtain and forward to this committee the opinion from your attorney as to the legality of a universal design? Also obtain from your attorney an opinion as to how the placing of a universal design on a label, store or shop card or button would effect the legality of its registration in the various states under existing label laws?

Kindly furnish the committee with any other information or suggestions you may desire to make upon the subject of a universal design.

Name of organization..

Address of secretary..

Unions that Did and Did Not Report.

Subsequent to this letters containing blank forms were again forwarded and the officers of the International Unions who had made no report upon the first blank submitted to them.

Notwithstanding the fact that three attempts were thus made to obtain the information as provided for in the blanks, twenty-three International Unions have made no reply to this date. They are as follows:

Bill Posters and Billers of America; Blacksmiths, International Brotherhood of; Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders of America; Bookbinders, International Brotherhood of; Broom & Whisk Makers, International Union; Engineers, International Union of Steam; Engravers, Watch Case International Union; Firemen, International Brotherhood of Stationary; Garment Workers, United; Jewelry Workers Union of America; Leather Workers, Amalgamated; Machinists, International Association of, Marble Workers, International Association of; Metal Workers, Amalgamated Sheet; Plate Printers, International Steel & Copper; Powder & High Explosive Workers; Printing Pressmens' Union; Saw Smiths' National Union; Stage Employees, International Alliance; Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen & Helpers of America; Textile Workers of America, United; Tip Printers, International Brotherhood of; Upholsterers' International Union.

Twenty-one organizations made replies that no action had ever been taken upon the universal questions, either in Convention or by their General Executive Board. They are as follows:

American Federation of Labor; Carriage and Wagon Workers, Clerks, Retail Protective Assn.; Garment Workers, Ladies; Horseshoers International Union, Hotel and Restaurant Employes International, Laundry Workers' Union, Leather Workers, United Brotherhood, Photographers' International Association; Machine [illegible] and Color Mixers, Meat Cutters and Butcher W[illegible]n, Molders' International Union; Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, Papermakers' International Union, Photo-Engravers International Union, Piano and Organ Workers' Union, Print Cutters' Association, Slate Workers, American Brotherhood of; Travelers' Goods and Novelty Workers, Woodcarvers International Union, Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers International Union.

As to a Universal Label.

On the question of Universal Label ten organizations with an approximate membership of 76,000 reported that they favored its adoption. These organizations are as follows:

Amalgamated Glass Workers International Association, American Federation of Musicians, Brick, Tile and Terra Cotta Workers, Brushmakers International Union, Glove Workers International Union, Hatters, United of N. A.; Metal Polishers, Pocket Knife Blade Grinders and Finishers, Stove Mounters' International Union, Shingle Weavers, Sawmill Workers.

Eleven organizations with an approximate membership of 229,000 reported unfavorable, or opposed to the adoption of Universal Label. These organizations are as follows:

Bakery and Confectionery Workers, Barbers International Union of America, Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, Brewery Workmen, Carpenters and Joiners, Cigarmakers International Union, Coopers International Union of North America, Tailors, Journeymen's Union; Tobacco Workers' International Union, International Typographical Union, Wire Weavers Protective Assn.

However, in the membership figures as quoted above, the membership of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners is not included. This organization not being what might be termed a distinct label organization, and the Committee not having had any figures as to the number of members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners who are working upon products that would be entitled to have the Carpenters label attached thereto, we did not deem it advisable to include Carpenters in the membership as above mentioned.

The foregoing figures, therefore, apply to organizations and to membership dealing entirely with the question of the Universal Label.

On the question of Universal Design, twenty-four International Unions failed to make any report whatsoever, the same unions also failing to make a report on the question of Universal Label.

Sixteen organizations reported that no action had ever been taken, either in Convention or by their Executive Boards, upon the universal subject, and they were practically the same organizations making similar report on the question of Universal Label.

As to a Universal Design.

Four organizations report favorably on the adoption of the Universal Design, and suggest the emblem, or seal of the American Federation of Labor. They are as follows:

Brushmakers' International Union, Coopers' International Union, American Federation of Musicians, Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers International Union.

One organization, United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers, report favorably and suggest the design of the Allied Printing Trades Council.

Three organizations, the Metal Polishers, Buffers and Platers, Stove Mounters' International and the Amalgamated Glass Workers, report favorably, but offer no suggestion as to the design.

One organization, the Journeymen Barbers' International Union, reports: "Depends upon design and usage," but does not suggest such design.

Eight organizations report as being opposed to the adoption of a universal design. They are as follows:

Boot and Shoe Workers' International Union, United Brewery Workmen International Union, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Cigarmakers' International Union, Piano and Organ Workers' Union, Tobacco Workers Union, International Typographical Union, United Hatters of North America.

This gives a complete list of the organizations making reports upon above subjects. Their reports and the communications accompanying the same are in the hands of the Committee and are at the disposal of this Convention.

In the instructions given to your Committee by the last Convention was one to the effect that International Unions issuing labels, store or shop cards, or buttons be requested to furnish this Committee with opinions from their attorneys as to the legality of the Universal Label or Design in their particular trades, and to have the Committee itself obtain a legal opinion.

The organizations in interest were requested on the blanks furnished them to obtain the opinions from their attorneys and furnish your Committee with the same.

Legal opinions were furnished by the Journeymen Tailors' Union through their attorney, Mr. Henry Cohen; by the Boot and Shoe Workers through their attorney, Goulston & Storrs; by the International Allied Printing Trades Association through its attorney, Martin Hugg, and the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union and the Cigarmakers International Union through their attorney, Mr. Eugene Clifford, and a legal opinion has also been furnished your Committee by the law firm, Ralston, Siddons and Richardson, of Washington, D. C., and these legal opinions are submitted to you for your careful consideration.

By Attorney Journeymen Tailors' Union.

Bloomington, February 8, 1913.

"Mr. E. J. Brais, Gen. Sec'y. J. T. U. A., Bloomington, Ill.

Dear Friend Brais: Your letter of Jan. 30 last has been duly received, and very carefully considered. The matter of the universal label I have studied out several times when the matter was pending, both for Mr. Gompers and the American Federation, and for our own organization.

Label laws, which are mostly modeled after one form, that of Connecticut, which says:

'Whenever any person or any association or union of workingmen has heretofore adopt or use, any label, trade-mark, etc., for the purpose of designating, making known, or distinguishing . . . as having been made, manufactured . . . by a member or members of such association or union . . .'

and a strict construction of this section (and as it is a criminal statute and in derogation of the common law, there are two reasons for it being strictly constructed), I do not think this can be made more general than the union of one trade. The original protection of a trade-mark was given to the man who manufactured the article, to which the mark was affixed. This has been extended by law to include those workmen who work on that article. To make it include every class of workmen who do not manufacture such articles, or who do not manufacture any kind of an article, is, I think, widening the scope further than the law would uphold. I therefore do not think that a universal label would receive the protection of the law.

I shall be glad to go into the question further with you, even from the standpoint outside of the law why I think it is not advisable, if you care to hear my reasons. To put a universal design on our label would, I think, affect the legality of our organization. We have amended our registration each time we have changed the label, because if ever a label were affixed that did not have on the new design, the discrepancy between the two would be called to the court's attention, and we would likely not get the protection that the court now gives.

Let me hear from you on this question at length, and I wish you would send me the arguments that are made in regard thereto, I would be very glad to study them and consider them at length.

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed) HENRY COHEN,
Attorney for the J. T. U. A."

By Attorney Bakery and Confectionery Workers.

"Mr. A. A. Myrup, Int. Treas., B. & C. W. I. of A., Bush Temple, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir: In reply to yours of yesterday, enclosing 'Universal Label Information Blank' (herewith returned) and requesting me to answer two of the questions--

I take it for granted that your request was not to be taken literally and I was to answer these questions, but presume that you wanted from me an opinion in regard to the matters referred to in the questions.

Store cards, shop cards and buttons are not registered in any state under existing label laws, so far as I know, except in Pennsylvania, and I do not see how the placing of a universal design upon such things could effect the legality of the registration or could in any way be objectionable.

I know of no legal objection to the adoption and use of a universal label.

But I am satisfied that the questions as given in the blank do not cover the matters concerning which they desire a legal opinion.

Should a universal label be adopted and be so used as to displace the label registered by a trade union and the registered label fall into disuse, then the rights claimed in the registered label would in time be lost by abandonment or non-use.

Should a universal label be adopted and used in connection with the registered label of the trade, the registration of the trade label would not be effected, nor would the rights in it be lost because of its being so used in connection with the universal label.

All the label laws with which I am at all familiar provide for the registry of such labels as are used to designate and distinguish the product of the labor of the members of a union registering the label, and in order to procure registration the union must have the exclusive right to the use of the label. So a trade union could not register the universal label as an independent proposition, nor could the union register it as a part of its label so as to protect that part that is the universal label part of it.

The A. F. of L. is a delegate body, and in my opinion has no individuals as members. Its membership (if it has any) is composed of trade unions in their entirety—that is, the entire trade union is the unit of its membership. Practically none of these unions as such make or sell any 'product of labor,' and for that reason a label adopted by the A. F. of L. would not be protected by the label laws. Some unions, I am told, have co-operative shops, and as to such shops only could the label be protected.

I should judge from the information blank that the matter was still in a tentative state, that nothing definite has been decided on as to its form or its use, that is, whether it should be used as an independent proposition or in connection with labels of the different unions.

I have not the ingenuity or capacity to conceive of a label or design of the A. F. of L. that could be so used as to be protected by the present label laws. Somebody else may have, and a submission of the entire matter might change my opinion.

Yours truly,
(Signed) EUGENE CLIFFORD."

By Attorney Cigarmakers' International Union.

Chicago, Nov. 7, 1912.

"Mr. G. W. Perkins, Pres., Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir: Three years ago I wrote you fully concerning the 'legal objections' to the adoption and use of a universal label or design for the unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. I inclose my copy of the letter which you may keep if inconvenient to look up the one you have.

Your present request is broader than the one then made, but much said in that letter may well be applied at present.

From the discussion, as well as from the wording of the original resolutions, the main idea seems to be the reduction of the number of Union Labels. I do not see how that can be achieved. In our craft, when the product appears in the market, there appears,

1, the cigars; 2, the box; 3, the cigar brand; 4, the caution notice, and generally; 5, the cigar band, besides there is the branding iron and the box decorations. Are you going to have one universal label or are you going to have five, six or seven labels of the same general design.

There may be persons who can formulate a feasible plan for the use of a universal design by all unions, or for the use of a device which, used in connection with the label of the Union, will show that the union is genuine—that is, affiliated with the A. F. of L. We have no difficulty in showing that the label is made by union printers without impairing our right to the label, and it may be that just as easily our affiliation with the A. F. of L. may be indicated.

The label of the Allied Printing Trades may be protected by label laws. If the plan formulated following the last meeting at Indianapolis that I attended, has been carried out, it is so protected, but the protection of the proposed universal design for the A. F. of L. would, from my viewpoint, necessitate the passage of new laws, or of amendments to existing laws in every state in the Union.

In case of the adoption and use of such a design in connection with distinctive labels of the unions, this difficulty may arise. Cigars are found with a counterfeit label—the box, the cigar brand, the caution notice, and the cigar band all bear genuine labels and all have the universal design. You may see how much more difficult it will be to convince a judge or a jury of the bad faith, the guilty intention of the manufacturer or seller of the cigars.

The trouble resulting from the great number of labels may be minimized by having people, who desire union-made goods, insist in every instance upon seeing the union label or a label purporting to be such. They may be deceived but not many times—somebody will set them right, and after that they'll know that label in any event.

The multitude of labels work no harm. If every union man insisted upon having union label goods, the dealers would keep them, and the chances are that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the label would be genuine. The lack of a distinctive mark, alike on all union labels, so that they might tell the genuine from the counterfeit only serves the purpose of an excuse to those who are seeking for an excuse. Better be deceived than buy something that has no label. It shows a demand and desire for Union labeled goods that dealers will heed.

It is not impossible that a man may be found, who can and will devise a method of using such a design that will obviate every objection that I have made. No such plan occurs to me, but it may occur, complete and feasible to some other mind. The only way for me to form an opinion that I would care to stand by is to inspect the plan proposed and pass on that.

(Signed) EUGENE CLIFFORD."

Chicago, Nov. 3, 1909.

"Mr. G. W. Perkins, President, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir: In reply to your request that I put in writing a statement of the 'legal' objections to the adoption by the A. F. of F. of a 'Universal Design,' such design being intended to displace the labels now used by the several unions affiliated with the Federation or to be used as a part of or in connection with such labels, I submit the following:

The American Federation of Labor is a delegate body—the unions entitled to a voice in its affairs are autonomous in the fullest sense of the word—they are not subordinate or local divisions of the Federation—no person ever makes application to the Federation for membership—in fact it has no individual members—no workingman can truthfully say 'I am a member of the American Federation of Labor' the most he may claim is that the union of which he is a member is affiliated with the Federation.

One of the questions that would confront it at the outset is 'Is the American Federation of Labor a union of workingmen?' It is necessary in registering a label or any design intended to be used as a label that an application be made, that the applicant if other than an individual, must describe itself so as to show in what capacity the application is made. Would the A. F. of L. describe itself as a union of workingmen? If the question were raised and fought to a finish the courts might hold that it is such—but to my mind it is no more a labor union than the Hague Board of Arbitration is a nation.

All the laws for label registration that I know of describe the purpose for which a label may be adopted as the 'designating' making known and distinguishing products of labor as having been made by such association or union of workingmen or by a member or members of such association.'

The A. F. of L. does not make anything that required a label to designate it, to make it known or to distinguish it. A cigar is made by a member of the C. M. I. U.—the C. M. I. being affiliated with the A. F. of L. is that Cigar made by a member of the A. F. of L.? I think not. I do not even consider the question debatable. If the A. F. of L. has what might be termed 'members' then the unions affiliated are the members—that is the unions as distinct entities—as entireties.

How then may it adopt a label or design for the purpose of distinguishing the product of its own labor or of the labor of its members? A label adopted for any other purpose is not entitled to registration under the laws of any state as far as I know—and without a law permitting its registration and providing for and protecting its exclusive use it might be counterfeited with impunity.

If the idea is to have the unions themselves change their labels so as to include the design, then unions must, in order to have the new label registered, file an affidavit that no other union has the right to use it either in its identical form or in any such near resemblance as may be calculated to deceive. If the design constitutes an essential part of the label, then as to that part of the affidavit is not true—and if it be not an essential part of the label, then registration would not protect it.

I am of the opinion that the 'Universal Design' proposed to be adopted by the A. F. of L. is not within the scope of any of the label registration laws—that the Federation is not a labor union within the meaning of such laws—that it has not right to register any design to be used as a label or as an essential part of a label—that such resignation, even if made, being unwarranted, would not protect the design against counterfeiters—and that if a union should adopt and register a label including the universal design, such label would be protected only as to such parts thereof as would be exclusive property of the registering union—that is to say such registration by unions would not protect the universal design from being used in connection with labels not approved by the A. F. of L.

I think I could talk for an hour or more upon the objections to such design from a business point of view, but inasmuch as you requested only a statement of the 'legal' objections I limit myself accordingly.

(Signed) EUGENE CLIFFORD."

By Attorney Allied Printing Trades Association.

Indianapolis, Sept. 30, 1913.

"Mr. John W. Hays, Secretary-Treasurer International Allied Printing Trades Association.

Dear Mr. Hays: In compliance with your request to give you my opinion as to the proposed 'Universal Label' I submit the following:

Nearly every state has enacted statutes for the registry of union labels, and while they differ in many details, they are all substantially the same as to the purpose for which said registry may be had. In a few the licensing of such label is permitted, but in except the few states where this is the case no assignment or license of the label is allowed. Before such a thing as a 'universal label' would be practicable it would be necessary, in my opinion, to recast the law in nearly all, if not all, the states of the Union. Most of the statutes are modeled upon those of Arizona and Illinois, and I take these as examples. The Arizona statute provides that a union label may be registered, 'Whenever any corporation, association, or union of workingmen have adopted or shall hereafter adopt for its or their protection any label, trade-mark, or form of advertisement announcing that goods to which such label, trade-mark, or form of advertisement shall be attached were manufactured by it or by a member or members of such union, it shall be unlawful,' etc. The Arizona form of statute is perhaps the broadest of any, and as shown by the quotation the purpose of the label is to announce that the goods to which such label is attached were manufactured by the union registering the label or by a member or members of such union. The Illinois statute and the many which follow it provide that a union of workingmen may register a label 'for the purpose of designating, making known or distinguishing any goods, wares, merchandise or other product of labor as having been made, manufactured, produced, prepared, packed or put on sale by such person or association or union of workingmen, or by a member or members of such association or union,' . . . In order to register such label it is necessary to file a sworn statement specifying, among other things, 'the class of merchandise and a particular, description of the goods to which it has been or is intended to be appropriated.' In my opinion the 'universal label' as proposed is unpracticable and if attempted to be carried out would be illegal under the statutes of substantially all of the states. The label is intended to designate and distinguish the goods, wares or merchandise to which it is attached as being the product of the union whose label is attached. The hat makers, for instance, would not be entitled to have their label attached to a book that was produced by union labor, because it would not be produced by the hat makers' union and vice versa. Then again how could a registry be had under those statutes which require to be specified 'the class of merchandise and a particular description of the goods to which it has been or is intended to be appropriated?' There could be no 'particular' description of all the kinds and classes of goods, wares and merchandise produced under the universal label.' Under present conditions a registry could not be had to put the same label upon shoes and printed matter, for the reason that those who belong to the shoe trades have nothing to do with the production of printed matter, and those that produce printed matter have nothing to do with the manufacture of shoes. A label registered for the benefit of the unions comprising the shoe trades would not inure to the benefit of the unions in the printing trades, because they jointly do not produce the same goods, wares and merchandise. A label will only protect goods produced by the labor of the members of the organization whose label is attached to such goods and because of the diversity of the trades they cannot jointly engage in producing the many classes of goods, wares and merchandise which the 'universal label' is designed to cover and protect. I have used the statutes of Arizona and Illinois as illustrations, and in many of the other states the restrictions are much greater than in Illinois, and for these reasons it is unnecessary for me to extend my opinion, as the reasons I have given are sufficient to show that the statutes of the states would not permit of a 'universal label' as proposed.

Truly yours,
MARTIN M. HUGG."

By Boot and Shoe Workers' Attorneys.

Boston, September 22, 1913.

"Mr. Collis P. Lovely, 246 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir: We have been requested to forward to you an opinion as to the advisability of the American Federation of Labor adopting a universal label or universal design in, combination with present labels of the various unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

It is our opinion that it is inadvisable for the various unions to give up their present labels now in use and to adopt a universal design in conjunction with the parent association. While it is true that it might not be difficult to register such a design in various jurisdictions, it is also true that some of the states do not permit an association to register a label. It is our opinion that the American Federation of Labor is not a union within the meaning of the term as expresses in various trade-mark statutes, but is an association.

We are also of the opinion that the rights of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union in particular can be most advantageously enforced with reference to its label through the courts of the various states in which its label is known and has become associated with the product of members of the craft, rather than under Federal registration.

We also believe that from a commercial standpoint, it would be inadvisable to change the present stamp, as it would practically mean a new campaign for the education of the public, and not only would the large sums of money which have hitherto been spent by the Boot and Shoe Workers Union in advertising a stamp be in effect wasted, but it would also necessitate the further expenditure of an exceedingly large sum of money to compel the public to associate the Boot and Shoe Workers Union with a new stamp, and we do not believe that the benefit to be derived from a universal stamp would be commensurate with such expenditures.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) GOULSTON & STORRS."

Legal Opinion Secured by the Department.

Washington, July 12, 1913.

"Thomas F. Tracy, Esq., Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Referring to your favor of May 11th, with its enclosures, and the questions submitted by you to us, we beg to say:

The question arises whether it is possible to establish a Universal Label to be imprinted upon or attached to goods produced by members of the various organizations forming constituent parts of the American Federation of Labor.

At the present time, it is to be borne in mind that very many of the organizations in question possess, and have used in some cases for long periods of years, labels of widely differing designs. In some cases, the designs embody in some form the letters, A. F. of L., or some equivalent form of words or letters indicating connection with the American Federation of Labor. In the larger number of instances, however, no such connection appears.

The first difficulty confronting us is of a practical rather than a legal nature. Would the organizations which have for so many years employed labels, which now have an intrinsic business value, be willing to forego them, and would they not, if they did so, be vitally losers? We submit this question without extended comment because it is a practical rather than a legal question.

In a consideration of the general right of trade unions to adopt a label which would be recognized by the courts, we have to remember always that in common law no person had any property in a trade-mark, the law relative to which is analogous to that governing labels, unless he was the owner or manufacturer of the goods produced and that the common law recognized no such right of property in the laborer as would justify protecting any mark which he might place upon such goods. For this reason, the organizations, desiring to have their labels protected, sought to gain this by legislation, and the legislation now in existence recognizes the validity of the label when adopted by the organization whose members made or manufactured the thing produced.

It follows from what we have already stated, that only tailors could have the right in a label under the law, as it now stands, used upon goods manufactured by Union tailors, and that the Federation of Labor could not adopt a label which would be applicable, let us say, to goods made by Union tailors, since the Federation is, to begin with, an organization composed of organizations of many different trades not connected with the production of the goods of tailors.

It would result from the foregoing, that if the A. F. of L. were to adopt a Universal Label and this label were infringed or counterfeited, no remedy whatsoever would exist because the organization adopting it would not be an organization engaged in the production of the things to which it would be affixed or upon which it might be stamped.

It may be suggested that the A. F. of L. having agreed upon a Universal Label, the subordinate organization, might each for itself be required to adopt it. Laying aside the practical difficulties of such a course, we have to consider that the moment a second constituent body adopted the same label and its adoption went unchallenged, the value from a legal standpoint of the use thereof by each organization would be weakened, if not entirely destroyed, as it would cease to be a distinguishing mark of a particular organization of producers. We, therefore, think that the legal obstacles in the way of the adoption of a Universal Label are practically unsurmountable.

This opinion might be considerably elaborated, but we believe we have sufficiently discussed the fundamental principles involved in your questions. We have not discussed, because it seems sufficiently covered by the foregoing, the question of the effect of abandonment, or of the power, of the employer who has bought labels* to continue their use after the Union had ceased using them, or of the danger that might be possible from the unauthorized use of a Universal Label. We might add that re-registration would be required in all States in the event of the adoption by any Union of a new form of label, but as we have shown, registration would be refused to the A. F. of L. under the present state of the law in States where Unions of particular trades are allowed to register their labels. We return herewith, the other opinions, etc., handed us by you.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) RALSTON, SIDDONS & RICHARDSON,
By J. H. R."

Summing Up by Committee.

Your committee considered all of the data and opinions submitted to it from three points of view:

1. Legal practicability.
2. Usage practicability.
3. Retention of value now adhering in well-advertised labels.

The opinions submitted by eminent attorneys, and included in this report, speedily disposed of the question of legal practicability, and on that phase of the problem your committee takes a strongly negative position. It must also be conceded that if a universal label or universal design would not be capable of legal protection, then such a venture would be the acme of business folly. A universal label or universal design would be tremendously valuable from a trade and commercial standpoint, and if it could be imitated or closely imitated, without penalty at law, it would immediately lose its value as a benefit or protection to the organized wage-earners. Indeed, it would constitute a tremendously effective weapon for the breaking down of union wage scales and conditions, for it could be used and would be used on goods manufactured under methods and at remuneration utterly abhorrent to the trade union ideal.

Notwithstanding the veto placed on the universal design or universal label by its legal impracticability, your committee also took up the question from the standpoint of its usage, that is, can a universal label or universal design be made to apply satisfactorily in lieu of the various labels, shopcards and buttons now in service, and giving where exploited by their owners satisfactory returns? In this connection your committee examined a large number of labels submitted to it by the unions at interest, and the committee unhesitatingly asserts that the universality of design or label is a beautiful theory, but utterly incapable of successful application. Your committee could cite numerous individual labels to show the basis for its conclusion, but contents itself with amplifying one, the allied label of the printing trades unions. Accepting its present design as the universal design, it would not be applicable in all other trades of on all other products, such as cigars, hats, clothing, shoes, etc., for the reason that it could not be made to convey the information that is now carried by the labels in use, and which is necessary to a proper presentation of the claims for recognition of the unions using them, and on the other hand, if any other design embracing a larger area of surface or changed in any vital particular, were adopted, it could not be used by the printing trades unions, for the demand from the users of the product of the press is for an ever smaller design, one that while it satisfies the patron that his printed matter is the product of a union printing office, is yet not the dominating feature of his letter head, billhead, circular, book or pamphlet. And in this connection it must be borne in mind that the success and value of any label or design depends in large measure on its popularity with the consumer, and on its practicability and availability for the particular commercial product to which it is to be applied. The same is peculiarly true of a label for boots and shoes, where compactness and expressiveness must be essential features.

The best known and most extensively patronized labels are those that have been well-advertised by their owners. For instance, the label of the Cigarmakers International Union is known to hundreds of thousands of people not directly affiliated with the trade union movement. It is brought to their attention through the medium of newspapers, magazines, billboards, novelties, etc. All this advertising has cost and is costing money, and this label because of the method of its exploitation has a commercial value to union cigarmakers that is scarcely measurable in dollars and cents. This label has a direct effect on wages and conditions, indeed a powerful and oft-times determining effect, and after years of usefulness and direct result is not to be lightly cast aside in order that a theoretical proposition may be tried out. What is here said about the cigarmakers label is also applicable to every well-advertised label, and any attempt to substitute for these labels a universal label, or to add to them a universal design, will meet with implacable opposition unless it can be clearly shown that the new instrument will retain all of the good features of the label that it is proposed to cast on the trade union scrap heap, and in addition thereto that the commercial value of the discarded label will still inhere in the new design. Otherwise we could with as good reason ask our unions to throw away the money now in their treasuries because forsooth some of the trade unions had declared for a bill or coin of newer design and later manufacture. It must be conceded, and then when considering the universal idea, borne constantly in mind, that the well-advertised and therefore well-known and well-patronized labels have a distinct and pronounced money value to the trade unions that own and exploit them, and they should not be asked or expected to wantonly destroy their property.

So it will be seen that from the basis of the three viewpoints, essential in the opinion of your committee in any consideration of the universal idea, the universal label or universal design, alluring as either may be as a theory, is utterly impractical, and even if attempted to be made effective would in the end prove to be an instrument of confusion and disintegration of present label achievement.

On the other hand, if all of the unions with labels, shop cards or buttons will persistently advertise these designs, the demand for union-made, union-labeled and union-sold goods will grow in accordance with the effort put forth, and the main object of the promoters of the universal idea will thus be achieved. That there will then be fraudulent use of honest labor's insignia is conceded, but as one of the attorneys quoted in this report remarks, that would not occur once in one hundred times, and in ninety-nine cases the promotion of union labor conditions would be achieved. And again, the one case of fraud, when detected and prosecuted, would be amenable to discipline under the law, a remedy that is not inherent in the universal idea.

So in conclusion your committee reports against the universal label or universal design, and in favor of the present practice. Your committee is deeply impressed with the fact, as shown by the data it has collected, that not one of the international unions that advertises and otherwise promotes its label is of the universal faith, and it would say to all other unions, "Your remedy is not in a universal label or design but in constant, unremittent and determined promotion of the sale of goods bearing your present label, in familiarizing the public with your shop card or button, and thus not only merit but secure public support."

Additional Statistics bearing Out Our Contentions.

Because of its statistical value and direct relation to the foregoing report, and as distinctly sustaining the conclusions arrived at by your committee, the following self-explanatory communication is included in this presentation:

Washington, D. C., July 21, 1913.

"Mr. Samuel Gompers, President, American Federation of Labor.

Dear Sir and Brother: I beg leave to submit to you, and through you to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, the result of the investigation made by this Department on Resolution No. 54 introduced at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor held in Rochester, and referred by the Executive Council to this Department for investigation and report. The resolution is as follows:

'RESOLVED, The Executive Council is hereby instructed and authorized to secure from all its directly and indirectly affiliated organizations having labels, trade-marks or shop cards, all items of expense in maintaining, operating and defending such labels, marks or cards, covering a period of twelve months between January, 1911, and January, 1912; and further

RESOLVED, That the result of this investigation be compiled in detail and reported in printed form to the next convention.'

Upon the receipt of your reference, and so that the best possible information could be obtained on the subject-matter as contained in that resolution, a blank was printed containing the following questions and the same transmitted to the executive officers of the sixty-seven organizations numerated in the index to the Union Label Bulletin as issued by the American Federation of Labor, with the request that the blanks be filled out and returned to this office. Subsequently two similar requests were made to the executive officers of those organizations which had not made any reply to the first inquiry. The questions contained in the blank are as follows:

'Amount of money expended in printing and distributing union labels, store or shop cards for the year ending December 31, 1912.

'Amount of money expended in advertising union labels, store or shop cards, or buttons for the year ending December 31, 1912.

'Amount of money expended in agitation work for union labels, store or shop cards, or buttons for the year ending December 31, 1912. This to include amount expended for salary, railroad fare and other incidentals.

'Amount of money expended for the year ending December 31, 1912, in legal defense, such as prosecuting counterfeit label cases and defending suits for infringement and other legal defenses.'

A number of organizations made reply to the effect that no information could be given because of the fact that their organizations had no label, store card or button on which any money is expended in advertising among them being the White Rats Actors Union of America, the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers, and the Brotherhood of Firemen. Other organizations, such as the International Photo-Engravers' Union, the Stereotypers' and Electrotypers' Union of North America and the Printing Pressmen's Union, made replies to the effect that a greater portion of the work of agitation was carried on in the interest of the Allied Printing Trades Council label and that the expenditures for the same were usually borne by their local Allied Printing Trades Councils, and no reports being made to the international office as to the amount expended by their locals, they were not in a position to give any definite answers to the questions contained in the blank forwarded to them. Several other organizations, including the International Molders' Union, the International Association of Machinists, replied that there was little or no demand for their labels and that the income from the sale of the same about covered the cost of printing and distributing them.

The following organizations replied that no money had been expended in any direction in the advertising of their label:

International Brick, Tile and Terra Cotta Workers Alliance, United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers of North America, Amalgamated Glass Workers International Association, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, United Brotherhood of Leather Workers on Horse Goods, American Federation of Musicians, Amalgamated Leather Workers Union of America, Lithographers' International Protective and Beneficial Association, International Association of Machinists, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, Brotherhood of Slate Workers, Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers International Union, International Wood Carvers Association of North America.

The American Federation of Musicians reports that any money that might be expended in this direction is done by local unions and no report is made to the general office. The Lithographers International Protective and Beneficial Association reports that while considerable sums of money have been expended in urging other organizations to demand its label, no separate account is kept of the money expended in this direction.

The following organizations made reply to the questions submitted to them and filled out the blanks as to the amount of money spent for the various purposes as indicated therein:

	Ques. 1.	Ques. 2.	Ques. 3.	Ques. 4.
Boot and Shoe Workers Union..........	$975.01	$55,424.24	$34,865.69	$45.00
Journeyman Barbers International Union of America..........	2,160.00	8,200.00	No record	None
Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union of America..........	19,405.30	13,743.00	17,577.14	1,200.00
International Union of United Brewery Workmen of America..........	7,580.51	2,496.50	No report	No report
Brushmakers International Union..........	35.00	20.00	117.65	None
Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Alliance and Bartenders International League of America..........	No report	19,214.73	22,729.26	No report
Cigarmakers International Union of America..........	No report	41,000.00	No report	No report
Coopers International Union..........	500.00	600.00	1,000.00	No report
United Garment Workers of America..........	19,630.04	2,108.50	56,473.11	1,642.92
International Ladies Garment Workers Union..........	No report	No report	No report	No report
International Glove Workers Union of America..........	283.30	196.27	270.14	No report
Laundry Workers International Union..........	23.00	54.00	No report	No report
United Brotherhood of Leather Workers..........	216.00	53.50	440.00	No report
National Association Machine Printers and Color Mixers..........	No report	200.00	No report	None
International Piano and Organ Workers Union of America..........	107.00	434.50	1,500.00	No report
International Steel and Copper Plate Printers Union..........	10.00	34.00	403.25	None
National Print Cutters Association of America..........	None	5.50	None	None
International Union of Shingle Weavers, Sawmill Workers and Woodsmen..........	None	200.00	......	None
United Textile Workers of America..........	500.00	40.00	No report	None
International Typographical Union..........			6,232.86	
Journeymen Tailors Union of America..........	813.65	692.15	......	312.30
American Wire Weavers Protective Association..........	40.00	75.00	30.00	None
International Union of Journeymen Horseshoers..........	None	None	None	250.00
United Hatters of North America..........	.....	20,120.00	......	......

Even these figures, as reported by the executive officers of the above international unions, can not clearly give the amount of money that has been expended for label agitation by their various organizations, particularly in the case of the International Typographical Union, the Cigarmakers International Union, and the Journeymen Tailors' Union of North America. The reports as made by these organizations only indicate the amount of money that is expended from the general office. The International Typographical Union and its various local unions expend large sums of money for label agitation through their affiliation with the Allied Printing Trades Councils in various localities. The members of the Cigarmakers International Union by the levying of assessments, and other means, spend a considerable amount of money in their various localities and for which no report is made to the general office. The same applies to the United Garment Workers, the Boot and Shoe Workers, and the Journeymen Tailors Union, so that it is really impossible to obtain information as to anywhere near the exact amount of money expended for label agitation as is requested in Resolution No. 54.

I have with me all the replies as made by the Unions communicated with, together with the reports submitted, which are at the disposal of the Executive Council for their inspection and consideration, and if there are any questions that the council or any of its members may desire to ask, I should be pleased to appear before them and answer to the best of my ability.

Hoping that this report, incomplete as it is, will receive the attention of the Council at their coming meeting.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours fraternally,
THOMAS F. TRACY."

If it were possible to set forth the various sums of money expended by local unions and councils for label exploitation, we feel that the aggregate would be a revelation as to labor's vigilance and aggressiveness in association with this one feature of its activities. Since the letter quoted above was written, we have ascertained that the New York City Allied Printing Council spends yearly the sum of $4,000, and that each of the twenty unions affiliated with the council also expend large sums of money in the promotion of their allied label. There are nearly two hundred allied printing trades councils on the continent. The United Hatters spent $40,000 for label agitation during the last year, and their local unions about $5,000.

The foregoing report, embracing as it does, valuable data and legal opinions, is most respectfully submitted for your consideration and action.

Fraternally,
JAMES M. LYNCH,
THOMAS F. TRACY,
COLLIS LOVELY,
R. A. LARGER,
MARTIN LAWLOR,
A. J. KUGLER,
JOHN GOLDEN,
Special Committee on Universal Label and Universal Design.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1913

Entered as second-class matter, September 10, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

Issued from the Headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, Ouray Building, 801-809 G Street Northwest, Washington, D. C.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.
SAMUEL GOMPERS .... President
Ouray Building, Washington, D. C.
JAMES DUNCAN .... First Vice President
Hancock Building, Quincy, Mass.
JOHN MITCHELL .... Second Vice President
3 Claremont Avenue, Mount Vernon, N. Y.
JAMES O'CONNELL .... Third Vice President
512 Ouray Building, Washington, D. C.
D. A. HAYES .... Fourth Vice President
930 Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, Pa.
WILLIAM D. HUBER .... Fifth Vice President
Carpenters' Building, Indianapolis, Ind.
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Star Building, St. Louis, Mo.
JOHN B. LENNON .... Treasurer
Bloomington, Ill.
FRANK MORRISON .... Secretary
Ouray Building, Washington, D. C.

TIME FOR ACTION.

In the News Letter this week there is an urgent request that trade unionists throughout the country make a special effort to interview the United States Senators and Representatives in whose districts they reside for the purpose of hastening action on the Bartlett-Bacon anti-trust and injunction limitation bills. A general response to the program of the American Federation of Labor by the organized workers will have a salutary effect. The platform declarations of the political party now in power are in accord with the demands of organized labor. If the men and women of labor are insistent upon these declarations being transmuted into law the Bartlett-Bacon bills will undoubtedly be passed.

Every trade unionist should perform his duty by interviewing the United States Senators of his state, as well as the Representative of his district in Congress, and if an interview is impossible, communicate your desires by letter.

State Federations and City Central Bodies, as well as local unions, can be of material assistance in securing the enactment of this legislation—legislation that will give the right to the organizations of labor to live and perform their normal functions of battling against economic injustice.

Your duty is plain. Do it now.

EVADES RESPONSIBILITY.

Washington, Nov. 29.—A lineman employed by a telephone company was killed by coming in contact with a defectively insulated electric light wire belonging to a light, heat, and power company and attached to one of its poles. It appeared that the telephone company had attached its wires to the pole in question without any agreement or arrangement with the lighting company authorizing it to do so, although the latter company had known for a long time prior to the accident that the telephone company was using its pole and had passively acquiesced in such use. In an action against the lighting company to recover for the death of the lineman, the New York Court of Appeals held (Heiskell vs. Auburn Light, Heat and Power Company) that the action could not be maintained; that the telephone company having made use of the pole originally without invitation, express or implied, the mere passive acquiescence in such use by the lighting company did not bring the telephone company within a class of licensees to whom such a duty was owing as would make the lighting company responsible for an injury to one of the telephone company's employees. In going upon or using the pole, the court said, the telephone company and its employes were mere volunteers or naked licensees who used the pole subject to all the concomitant conditions and perils, and to whom the sole duty of the defendant was abstention from inflicting intentional or wanton or willful injury.

PREPARING TO INCREASE WAGES.

Philadelphia, Nov. 29.—An ordinance has been introduced in the city council providing that on and after January 1, 1914, all mechanics employed by the city of Philadelphia shall receive for their service the then current union rate of wages for a working day of eight hours. It is also provided that for overtime work all mechanics shall receive time and one-half for all work done on weekdays, holidays and half-holidays excepted, from the regular quitting time until midnight and double time from midnight until 8 a. m., as well as double time on holidays, half-holidays, and Sundays. Further, that Saturdays being, by act of Assembly, designated as half-holidays, a full day's wage shall be paid for work done from 8 a. m. to 12 o'clock noon. It is further provided that the provisions of the ordinance as to rates of wages shall not apply to mechanics now employed by the City of Philadelphia at a rate higher than the current union wage, but the provisions as to overtime work done on holidays, half-holidays, and Sundays shall apply.

RAILROAD BILL DRAFTED.

Washington, Nov. 29.—A draft has nearly been completed of the bill which will be introduced in Congress, giving the Interstate Commerce Commission plenary power to regulate the equipment, safety devices, and actual running conditions of the railroads of the United States. Representative Stevens of New Hampshire is framing this bill. Should this measure become a law, it will provide the Interstate Commerce Commission with authority to compel the railroads to maintain their equipment and roadbeds at a certain standard and will also provide for the regulation of speed of passenger trains. In fact, this bill goes farther in the matter of regulation than would have been dreamed of ten years ago. There is no doubt that the discussion of the provisions of this bill in Congress will arouse much opposition from the railroads, but undoubtedly will secure the support of a great majority of Congress.

ADVISES UNIONISM.

St. Louis, Nov. 29.—A prominent member of the People's League addressed a meeting of the Missouri Teachers' Association recently. He urged the teachers to affiliate with the organized labor movement, saying that only by this means could they hope to secure just compensation for their work. "The most ethical, the most just, the most humane movement in all the world is organized labor. You ought to affiliate with the American Federation of Labor, then you could secure an increase in your salaries. Politicians and school boards will defeat every move you make to increase your wages or better your conditions in life until you show them you have power behind you—the organized labor movement of the country."

TAXIS WIN WAGE INCREASE.

Philadelphia, Nov. 29.—The striking Chauffeurs have won their strike. They will receive as a result higher wages and not be compelled to pay for gasoline. A per diem wage has been established and the commission plan has been abandoned. The agreement which has been signed provides for the recognition of committees representing the union.

"WILL DISGRACE ERIE."

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 29.—At the conference of the industrial welfare and efficiency committee held here a startling statement was made by the representative of the Erie Central Labor Union. This representative came prepared with an array of facts concerning the manner of conduct of some Erie manufacturing plants. He had an abundance of data gathered by personal effort and inspection and supplied by employes in the concerns in which the conditions exist. There was presented a statement relative to the employment of child labor in Erie; the absence of safety appliances on machinery and the insanitary conditions prevailing, and the entire lack of urgent conveniences in some of the plants. It was a strong indictment of the manufacturing interests and astonished the members of the conference. A representative of the manufacturers of Erie, upon hearing the report, said to the Central Labor union representative that his report would "disgrace Erie." The contest against non-union conditions in Erie, which has been carried on by the Metal Trades Department for a year, is having its effect in numerous ways, and is bringing to the attention of the public the conditions which usually obtain in industrial centers where unionism is conspicuous by its absence.

CHILDREN 11 HOURS; MEN 10.

New York, Nov. 29.—The employment of women and children under intolerable conditions has not been eliminated in the South, despite vigorous agitation for anti-child labor laws, according to a letter received from a citizen of North Carolina by the National Child Labor Committee. The correspondent tells of conditions under which men work ten hours a day and women and children eleven. "Last week I saw in two counties of North Carolina what seems to me to be about the most successful butchery of the laws of chivalry that I have ever known. At two different places I saw women and children go to work at 6 o'clock in the morning, scores of them. Just one hour after the women and children went to work I saw the men go to work. Men are working ten hours and women and children eleven hours! If women and children can work eleven hours, why not the men? They can, but they have learned that it does not pay to have men work so long. Nobody seems to have given much thought to the women and children. They simply take what is coming. They are not in a position to raise any objection."

A LABOR VICTORY.

San Francisco, Nov. 29.—Organized labor in the recent municipal election won a decisive victory. Five of its eight candidates for supervisors were successful. Of the other three supervisors elected two were known as union labor men, and thousands voted for them as such. At the primary election a month ago Andrew J. Gallagher, a prominent union man, was the only one elected of the sixty-odd candidates for supervisors. Therefore the board of supervisors for the next two years will have eight union labor men in its membership of eighteen. Two other union men were also elected, one as tax collector and the other re-elected police judge.

REVIVAL ON.

Indianapolis, Nov. 29.—With the settlement of the traction strike Indianapolis has become one of the liveliest cities in the country in union activities. In fact, the recent difficulty has stirred into action all of the unions in the city and a general and effective organizing campaign is under way. In fact, there is scarcely a union in the city that is not rapidly increasing its membership and there are many new organization in the process of formation. A number of organizations have been successful in securing new agreements with advanced wages. In fact, the present situation is notably better and the outlook is indeed rosy.

MILL FIREMEN ON STRIKE.

Lawrence, Mass., Nov. 29.—The union Firemen in the Textile Mills of this city are on strike to enforce their demands for an eight-hour day. The strikers number about 450. Should the strike be long continued the mills employing 35,000 operatives will be forced to shut down owing to the law which prohibits the operation of a manufacturing establishment for more than one week without licensed firemen. The Firemen were heretofore working for twelve hours a day and seven days a week.

TIM HEALY WINS.

New York, Nov. 29.—"Tim" Healy, General President of the Stationary Firemen's International Union, was elected Coroner of New York County at the recent election, for a term of four years, by a splendid majority.

COAL RECORD.

Springfield, Ill., Nov. 29.—The production of coal in Illinois in 1912 reached 59,885,226 short tons, with a value at the mines of $70,294,338. There are 102 counties in Illinois and coal is mined in just one-half of them. The coal formations underlie a number of other counties, the total productive area occupying nearly three-fourths of the entire State. The total coal area is estimated at 35,680 square miles. The biennial shutdown, which has become a regular incident in the spring of every even-numbered year, occurred as usual in April, 1912, and while trade conditions were not the best, the controversy between the United Mine Workers and the operators was settled, the miners securing an advance of 5 cents a ton, with work being resumed after an idleness of from thirty to sixty days. The increased labor efficiency just given out by the coal statistician of the United States Geological Survey is exhibited by an average output per man in Illinois in 1912 of 767 tons against 701 tons in 1911. Illinois is in third rank among the coal producing States, West Virginia holding second place, with approximately 6,000,000 more tons mined. West Virginia, however, is favored by a lesser labor cost. Illinois shares with the other States in a decreased record of coal mining in 1912, compared with the preceding year. According to the statistics compiled by the United States Bureau of Mines the number of fatalities in and about the mines in 1912 was 159 against 172 in 1911. Only three deaths were due to explosions of gas and dust.

U. S. AS COAL OPERATOR.

Grand Forks, N. Dak., Nov. 29.—In mining lignite coal for the Williston (North Dakota) reclamation project, the government has successfully demonstrated its ability to handle mining operations by producing coal at a cost below that of private operators and also paying better wages to miners. Expert coal miners, and practically all the men employed by the government, are skilled and receive from $4 to $5 per day, working on a tonnage basis. This is in marked contrast with the average wage of $2 a day for coal miners. In addition to better wages, the government maintained for superior conditions for its miners. They have shower baths, private lockers, bunk rooms for single men, and a restaurant where the miners can obtain meals at 25 cents each. The miners are well satisfied, and jobs at the government mines are much sought after. As against an average cost in private mines of about $1.50 a ton, the United States is mining its coal at about $1.30 and the engineer in charge of the project anticipates that ultimately the cost of mining will be reduced to $1. Delivered at the project station coal mined by private owners would cost the government about $2.50 a ton.

SUBMERGING AMERICA.

Greensburg, Pa., Nov. 29.—Children representing twenty-four nationalities are students in the public schools of Temfield Township, Westmoreland County, according to a report made public. This is the county where the long miners' strike occurred and where for years foreigners have been almost exclusively employed and where also peonage was practiced, according to testimony adduced before an investigating committee of Congress. This report is only an incident and undoubtedly could be duplicated in almost an innumerable number of instances in different parts of the country. The scholars in the school referred to are divided as follows: Of the total number of scholars, 1,984 are listed as American, forty-seven Irish, 192 Polish, 248 Slavish, twenty-four Lithuanian, seventy-one Austrian, thirty-nine French, thirty-eight Swedish, ninety-seven English, 348 Italian, 191 German, fifteen Bohemian, seventy Scotch, forty Canadian, forty Russian, twenty-eight Hungarian, seven Jewish, twenty Horwart, six Welsh, twelve Dutch, two Greek, four Croatian, two Spanish and twenty-eight negro.

PORT ARTHUR ACTIVE.

Port Arthur, Texas, Nov. 29.—The officials of the local unions in this city recently met at a "Round Table Banquet" for the consideration of plans inaugurating a labor forward movement. As a result a meeting has been scheduled for the early part of December to which all unorganized workers, merchants, ministers and laymen will be invited to attend and hear what organized labor has done toward civic uplift, what it is now doing and precisely what its definite program is for the future. A permanent organization, devoted to industrial and educational interest, will be the outgrowth of this movement. It is the hope of the trade unionists of the city to place the great economic organized labor movement before the unorganized and the citizens in such a manner as to convince all of its necessity and influence for good.

PRISON HORRORS.

Albany, N. Y., Nov. 29.—"Stories of torture to prisoners in the Middle Ages sound like descriptions of luxuries in comparison to the details that have been to most of the lives that some of the prisoners in Sing Sing live," was the statement recently made by George W. Blake, special commissioner appointed by Gov. Sulzer to probe prison affairs. The investigator describes conditions as frightful, and continues: "The worst feature of the prison management cannot be discussed in any public document, but the subject is of such vital importance to the welfare of the State that no time should be lost in submitting it to the attention of men competent to present a method of bettering a condition that breeds disease of the mind and body. The story will touch the heart of every man with any human instinct."

CANNOT BLAME UNIONS.

Lockport, N. Y., Nov. 29.—About 200 students of the local high school, boys and girls, went on strike because of a dispute with the principal over the part that athletics should have in school life. The principal incurred the displeasure of the students because of a speech derogatory to football and the students then threatened to strike, but were persuaded not to until the board of education had investigated the case and made a decision. The board of education met, but remained silent upon the question. Following the inaction of the board, the students voted to strike, and made a demonstration against the principal.

STARTS CLOTHING INQUIRY.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Federal investigation of the cost of the manufacture of clothing, hosiery, and knit goods has been ordered by Secretary Redfield, of the Department of Commerce. The investigation will begin at once and will cover the principal centers of production at home and abroad. Secretary Redfield some time ago announced the purpose of his department to make investigations of this character to determine whether the reductions in the tariff law were really harmful to American industry.

DEDICATE NEW BUILDING.

St. Louis, Nov. 29.—The fine large building recently erected by the Brewers and Maltsters was dedicated on November 15 and 16 with a varied and extensive program. The new hall is on Wisconsin Avenue and furnishes an entrance from that street as well as Salena. The building is of attractive architecture and ranks among the finest in the city.

WORTH EMULATING.

Milwaukee, Wis., Nov. 29.—During the early part of this year the union label department inaugurated a campaign of label agitation and education which has been the most effective of any method ever adopted here. The results have been even beyond expectation. The volunteer organizer of the American Federation of Labor, M. H. Whitaker, says: "It is a well-known fact that a large percentage of union men would purchase union label goods if the proper information is disseminated to them. There are a large number of articles manufactured that bear the union label, but it is also true that many of these products have been put on the market within recent years. It was determined by the Label Department to evolve some plan to enlighten the members of organized labor in regard to these articles, as well as to agitate and educate toward a more universal patronage of these products. We secured samples of all the various articles bearing the union labels, packed them in suit cases, and went from meeting to meeting, delivering addresses on the union labels and emphasizing the importance of purchasing only goods that were made by union workmen and workwomen. Then we exhibited the goods to show and prove to them that such goods can be had with the union label, as well as informing them as to the mercantile establishments that carry the line of goods exhibited. This plan has borne fruit and largely extended the sale of union-labeled products. This plan is to be continued with the hope that the organized movement in this city will become the greatest consumer of union labeled goods in proportion to its membership of any city in America."

TO FIGHT CONVICT LABOR.

Duluth, Minn., Nov. 29.—The local labor paper, the World, states that the committee appointed by President Hall, of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor to investigate the convict labor situation of Minnesota will meet in the near future in St. Paul. For years organized labor has protested against the employment of convicts on State work where their labor would come into competition with free labor. In this State convicts are employed in the prisons under the iniquitous contract system in the manufacture of shoes and binding twine and farm machinery. It is the purpose of the committee to study the convict labor system from every angle. In all probability efforts will be made to secure legislation that will abolish the contract system and provide employment for the convicts in the manufacture of such products as are used by the State in the institutions which are solely State supported. This plan is in vogue in some States, and appears to be working satisfactorily. This committee will render its report to the convention to be held in this city in July, 1914, and upon the action taken will depend the future efforts to be made by the Minnesota State Federation of Labor.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

Washington, Nov. 29.—In the case of Bertram vs. Bemidji Brewing Company, decided by the Supreme Court of Minnesota, it appeared that the defendant operated in connection with its brewing plant a certain machine for bottling beer, in the operation of which bottles either from defects therein or overpressure of air frequently exploded, throwing particles of glass about the room, thus endangering the safety of the machine operator. It appeared that it was practicable to so guard or screen the machine as to protect the operator from the exploding bottle. The defendant failed to provide and require to be used a proper guard, and the plaintiff, an inexperienced operator, was injured by particles of glass from an exploded bottle. The court held that the complaint which disclosed these facts stated a cause of action for the negligent failure of the defendant to provide a proper guard for the machine, and that the question whether the plaintiff assumed the risk of operating the machine without a guard and whether he was guilty of contributory negligence were issues for the jury.

WANTS INFORMATION.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Senator Stone on November 10, submitted three resolutions in the Senate for the purpose of securing information from various departments of government with reference to the importation of convict made goods. There has been a law upon the statute books for the last twenty-five years prohibiting the importation of convict made goods. Recently complaint has been made that these goods were being imported, notwithstanding the fact that the new tariff expressly prohibits their importation. In the European penal institutions the manufacture of commodities takes a wide range. The information sought by the resolutions introduced by Senator Stone is for the purpose of forming a basis upon which to construct legislation to cover the defects, if any, which will be brought out by the compliance with the resolutions referred to.

LIVING STILL CLIMBING.

Washington, Sept. 20.—The continued increase in cost of living is indicated in a report made to the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury by the government's general supply committee on the contracts it has let for supplies for the executive departments. It is shown that the cost of groceries and household supplies has increased 17 per cent, as compared with last year; lumber, 10 per cent; fuel and ice, 7 per cent, and dry goods, 5 per cent. A decrease is shown in the prices of forage, flour, and feed, 20 per cent; paints and oils, 12 per cent; hardware, 7 per cent, and furniture, stationery, and electrical engineering supplies, 5 per cent each. Drugs and chemicals, laboratory apparatus, photographic supplies, engraving, and printing supplies and incandescent gas lamp supplies are recorded as being stationary in price.

SEA PATROL URGED.

London, Nov. 29.—Declaring that the Titanic disaster would not have occurred if the Northern passage for Trans-Atlantic Liners had been properly patrolled, American delegates to the International Conference on Safety at Sea, presented a plea for an international ice patrol. An American delegate declared that had a sea patrol been in operation it would have been able to have notified the Titanic by wireless of the exact position of the berg and the catastrophe averted. The recent narrow escape of the Teutonic from collision with an iceberg was cited by the delegates as an argument in favor of the international ice patrol.

WOODEN CARS UNDER BAN.

New York, Nov. 29.—The Public Service Commission has just issued an order calling upon the Long Island Railroad to discontinue the use of wooden cars now in its service on any of its passenger trains made up in part of steel cars. The order also directs that after September 15, 1914, the company shall not operate any wooden passenger cars at all on the electric trains on Long Island.

NEW IMMIGRATION BUILDINGS.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Plans and specifications for the new immigration stations for Baltimore and Boston have been approved by the Treasury Department. Plans for the Boston buildings call for an expenditure of $250,000, and $280,000 will be expended in Baltimore. It is expected that construction work will immediately commence.

COMMISSION FORM INDORSED.

Toronto, Nov. 29.—The "city manager plan" of municipal government was endorsed at the nineteenth annual meeting of the National Municipal League by the special committee appointed two and one-half years ago at the Richmond meeting to study the problem of commission government and its developments. Commission government at present is directing the municipal destinies of more than 7,000,000 persons in 300 cities and towns. The supporters of the plan are divided on the question as to whether commissioners should be elected for specific posts or on a general ticket, with power to divide the departments among themselves after election. The majority of the committee, however, reported that neither solution was as sound as that offered by the plan of electing the commission purely representative and legisative in function, permitting the members to give only part time to municipal work and receive nominal salaries or none, and leave the chief executive work to a city manager hired by the commission from anywhere in the country and holding office at its pleasure. In this scheme the manager appoints and controls the remaining city employees, subject to adequate civil service provisions. This committee consists of Richard S. Childs, Secretary of the National Short Ballot Association, Chairman; Prof. Chas. A. Beard, Columbia University; Prof. William B. Munro, Harvard University; Hinton Rogers Woodruff, Philadelphia; Dr. Ernest S. Bradford, Washington, D. C., author of "Commission Government in American Cities."

FOR DEFICIENT PUPILS.

Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 29.—In this city, as in most American cities, about one-half of the children have been leaving school in the sixth grade. The Cleveland school authorities interpreted this to mean that this situation was due to the attempt to force abstract intellectual effort on boys and girls whose interest was in doing things. As a consequence the elementary industrial school was established, to which boys and girls were admitted, if they were over thirteen years of age, and two years or more behind their grade in school. One-half of the day is devoted to English, mathematics, geography, and history, and to hygiene of a thoroughly practical character. The remaining periods are given to manual and industrial work, including shop work, domestic economy and gymnasium practice. The school has been successful even in the face of adverse conditions. The enrollment has doubled in the last four years. It is claimed that pupils who had long since lost interest in school work of any kind, some to the extent of being known as dullards and incorrigibles, have become eager and alert not only in the hand subjects, but in the academic work as well.

MAYBE SO.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Considerable interest is being taken in the statement recently made by August Leguia, former President of Peru, who asserted that Peruvian beef can be delivered in New York for 10 cents a pound. Government statistics apparently bear out the statement made, for figures recently given out by the Department of Commerce show that during the first few months of the present year there was a heavy increase in the shipment of beef coming from Argentina and Australia. This beef averaged in price upon delivery at New York and San Francisco from 7 cents to 10 cents a pound. A large supply of Argentina beef recently arrived in New York and was sold at retail for 11 1-2 cents a pound. This fact is indisputable evidence that this foreign beef was delivered at the docks at a price considerably lower than it sold at retail. If the foreign markets can supply America's meat demands it is probable that a general diet of beans will be averted.

WASHINGTON WAGE COMMISSION.

Tacoma, Wash., Nov. 29.—The wage commission of this State has been in this city gathering information as to wages paid in the various industries. It has been brought out that of the 2,262 Laundry Workers in the State over eighteen years of age, 76 receive under $6; 178 under $7; 504 under $8; 470 under $9; 242 under $10; 245 under $11, and 383 over $11 per week. It developed also that the clerks generally are poorer paid than the factory girls. Another feature which came to light was that the wages paid in Tacoma are 13 per cent lower than in any other part of the State. Some girls testified to their endeavor to live on $6 per week. One employer stated that if wages were placed too high the girls would be replaced with Japanese help. No recommendations or conclusions have as yet been reached by the wage commission in the Tacoma matter.

FAVORS FREE TEXT BOOKS.

Sioux City, Ia., Nov. 29.—The free text-book proposition, twice undertaken by the Sioux City Trades and Labor Assembly, proved a failure in both instances because of its inability to secure a sufficient number of signatures to the petitions requesting that the question be submitted to a vote of the electors of this independent district. It is again to be taken up by the central body. The failures were due to the fact that the procuring of signatures was left entirely to voluntary workers. Now the Trades Assembly has evolved a plan which includes the requesting of the local unions to levy a small assessment whereby the campaign can be properly financed and signatures secured through an organized corps of paid workers. The public generally is favorable to free text-books, and there is hardly a question of doubt that upon the submission of the question the people will act favorably upon it.

TAKE THEIR MEDICINE.

Boston, Nov. 29.—The savings banks of the country have abandoned their opposition to the postal savings banks, according to R. C. Stephenson, of South Bend, Ind., president of the savings bank section of the American Bankers' Association. The report of the president of the section to its annual meeting shows that savings banks have not suffered appreciably by the introduction of the postal savings system, it being stated that the money deposited with the government probably would not have gone into the savings banks.

WANTS TO BUY AND SELL.

Boston, Nov. 29.—This city will go into the coal and ice business on a large scale if the wishes of the City Council are carried out. The Council has adopted resolutions addressed to the legislature calling for a constitutional amendment that will allow the city to buy and sell coal and to manufacture and sell ice. The resolutions must be approved by the next two legislatures and adopted by the voters of Boston before the project becomes possible.

FRENCH COAL MINERS.

Douai, France, Nov. 29.—The great strike of the coal miners in Northern France has been settled, the operators' association agreeing to an eight-hour day. In consequence thereof the strike has been declared off and all miners returned to work.

INTRODUCES CONVICT BILL.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Representative Austin of Tennessee has introduced a bill to prevent interstate shipment of coal mined by convicts or articles manufactured by convict labor.

A LIVE DEPARTMENT.

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 29.—The Commissioner of the new State Department of Labor and Industry has announced that it is the purpose of the department to enforce all laws which the department is designed to enforce. Some apprehension was felt that such would not be the case, but public utterances of Commissioner Jackson are to the effect that the labor laws of the State are to be strictly enforced, and the unions throughout the State have been appealed to to assist the department in its work. In speaking before the Philadelphia Central Labor Union, the Commissioner said: "Remember now, that our department will have only from fifty to sixty inspectors. That small corps of inspectors manifestly cannot enforce every provision of the laws without the co-operation of humane societies and organizations such as yours. Without such co-operation we can do nothing and may as well never start, but with proper co-operation we shall soon have 10,000 inspectors instead of fifty or sixty, and then we can accomplish a great deal of good. I would like to have this body organize a Central Safety Committee and I would like all the component parts of the Central Labor Union, all individual unions, appoint subcommittees in each factory, then let all these committees co-operate in discovering abuses and reporting them so that we may co-operate in applying the remedies and enforcing the laws." The Commissioner also asserted that where violations were reported they will be considered as confidential and investigated by the department, thus preventing the discharge of any employe for having notified the Department of a violation of the law in the factory or workshop in which he or she is employed.

TO LOOK INTO RETAIL PRICES.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Secretary Redfield, of the Department of Commerce, in addressing the Lansing, Mich., Chamber of Commerce, stated that if sufficient funds were available the Department would conduct an inquiry during the coming year into the fixing of retail prices by manufacturers. "The decision of the supreme court, making it unlawful for manufacturers to fix retail prices settles the present law, but the wisdom or unwisdom of the new law and the economic profit or loss by the practice are not yet settled. There are men who are sincere foes of monopoly who incline to the belief that under economic laws, which are greater than statutes, the broad prohibition of the right to fix retail prices by manufacturers tends to create monopoly instead of being a movement toward relief from monopoly. There is no thought of questioning the decision. It is the law of the land and as such it is bound in letter and spirit to be accepted and obeyed. For the guidance of future legislation, however, on this important subject, it is desirable that the economic question be worked out.'

TO ENLARGE NAVY YARD.

Washington, Nov. 29.—The Assistant Secretary of the Navy is scheduled to visit Pensacola, Fla., to inspect the navy yard and surrounding reservation with the view to the establishment of an advanced naval base there. An investigation has been made and a report favorable to the conditions submitted. The board of inspectors for shore stations, in its latest report, asserts that Pensacola is the best and only site on the Gulf of Mexico for a naval station of the first class. For some years past the operations at the Pensacola Yard have been unimportant, but it is now believed that the navy department will materially increase the facilities and, as a consequence, a large number of men will be employed.

COMMISSION FORM UPHELD.

Denver, Nov. 29.—The state supreme court has sustained the commission form of government. In effect, the court held that when the State Assembly approved the Rush Bill, granting charter government to Denver, it gave unlimited power in matters of local government; that the people had a right to amend the charter, either by a convention or by an initiated amendment, as was done, and that the initiated amendment is legal. This same question has gone to the lower courts from other cities of the state, but as the Supreme Court has now indicated its position upon this particular question the other suits will undoubtedly be withdrawn.

ADOPT COMPENSATION LAW.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 29.—At the recent election the proposed laws and constitutional amendments providing for a workmen's compensation law, passed by the last session of the Oregon legislature and referred to a vote of the people, was adopted by more than a three-fourths vote. This measure is not entirely satisfactory to the working people of the state, but the general sentiment in favor of a workmen's compensation law was so strong that it easily secured sufficient votes to pass the amendments. No doubt there will be efforts made to correct whatever defects there are in the bill by amendment in the near future.

BANISH PRISON STRIPES.

San Quinten, Cal., Nov. 29.—The prison management has determined to abolish the old system of clothing the convicts with striped suits. The only instance in which the striped suit will be used will be in the case of men who are in solitary confinement. The suits which have been worn were destroyed by being burned, and nearly 2,000 convicts in gray cadet suits witnessed a custom of many years standing going up in smoke. Hereafter there will be marks for the different classes. Broad black bands on the cap and black crescents on the sleeve will be the marks of distinction.

EMPLOYERS' UNION.

London, Nov. 29.—The story that the employers of the United Kingdom are forming a union for the purpose of raising a fund of $250,000,000 to fight organized labor, continues to be told. It occurs to an observer that if the employers are able to raise that immense fund in order to make an attempt to crush the unions, an amicable adjustment of the grievances of organized labor would be much less expensive than the present program.

BAR M'MANIGAL.

Ottawa, Ontario, Nov. 29.—Reports that Ortie McManigal, the confessed criminal, would be taken through Canada on his way to Europe, brought forth an official announcement from the Department of Immigration that he would not be permitted to enter the country, even though he had a through ticket to Europe.

MACHINISTS ORGANIZED.

Portsmouth, N. H., Nov. 29.—The Machinists have organized a local union. Practically all of the Machinists signed the charter roll. It was one of the most complete jobs or organizing ever concluded in this part of the country. The prospects for the future are exceedingly bright.

PIANO TUNERS ORGANIZE.

Schenectady, N. Y., Nov. 29.—Practically every piano tuner in the city joined the new union organized recently. A charter has been granted by the Piano, Organ and Musical Instrument Makers' International Union. A new scale of prices has been adopted, which are to go into effect immediately.

TO INVESTIGATE TELEPOST.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Senator Owen has introduced a resolution asking that a committee of three senators, including the chairman of the committee on postoffices and post roads, be appointed to investigate and report upon the merits of the telepost now in operation between St. Louis and Chicago. The telepost began to be developed in 1890 and was established for the purpose of materially reducing the transmission rates of telephone and telegraph companies. Its system is radically different from any other transmission company. For instance, its program is to charge 1 cent per word for any message between any two points on its system, operating similarly to the postoffice in the assessment of rates. A letter of a certain weight is carried by a 2-cent stamp, no matter what distance it travels within the area of the United States, and the telepost plan is the same. The telepost company has been unable to extend its lines, owing to the secret and open opposition of the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Bell Telephone Company. The investigation sought is undoubtedly for the purpose of establishing the fact that transmission companies can radically reduce their rates and still pay a fair profit on the actual investment. There is a still further motive in that the question of government ownership of transmission lines is becoming an important one, and the investigation undoubtedly will still further reveal the necessity of the postoffice department taking over all transmission lines.

PASSIVE RESISTANCE.

Washington, Nov. 29.—The annual recreport from Amoy, China, say labor conditions in Amoy are greatly affected by emigration. The cost of servants are 50 per cent higher than in Foochow. No adequate explanation of the labor situation in Amoy is possible without a consideration of the guilds. From the strong merchants guilds to the apparently unimportant chair coolie guild, practically all the industries and trades are governed by these organizations, which control the market price of labor and to some extent of manufactured products. Most important of all, however, they control the supply of labor, and employers needing labor must not offend them too seriously, or their most effective weapon, the boycott, will be put into operation, and it will be impossible for the employer to obtain workmen. The Chinese characteristic of passive resistence enables them to wait quietly for the solution of the questions at issue, quite oblivious to the passing of time. These conditions prevail principally in the cities.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

San Francisco, Nov. 29.—A Bureau on Public Discussion has been established in the University of California by the regents of that institution, and is now a part of the extension division. The object of the Bureau of Public Discussion is to foster and aid intelligent discussion of vital present-day questions. A director of the work has been appointed and the extension division will have the aid and backing of the entire university, of which the Bureau is a part, and the active co-operation of various related departments of the university, such as those of political science, economics, forensics, and home economics. The Bureau of Public Discussion will co-operate with existing organizations throughout the State, such as civic study societies, women's clubs, debating clubs, workingmen's organizations, and neighborhood groups interested in informing themselves as to living problems of industry, politics, government, &c.

INDUSTRIES' TOLL.

Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 29.—Death or disability claimed 10,385 victims employed in the industries of California during 1912, according to the annual report of the State industrial accident board, just filed with the Governor. Of the 10,385 accidents reported, 412 resulted fatally and 53 accidents made permanent cripples of the victims. The average impairment of physical power in the cases of those permanently injured was 5 per cent. The number of persons temporarily disabled was 8,665. These suffered injuries incapacitating them from one week to six months, but resulting in complete recovery. The physical impairment to those temporarily injured averaged 92 per cent. The board statistics show that thirty-five years was the average age of those killed in industry, while those permanently hurt averaged thirty-two years. An average age of temporary victims was thirty-four. Of the total injured during the year 4,311 received financial assistance.

CHURCH AND LABOR.

Los Angeles, Cal., Nov. 29.—"The church controlled by the comfortable and well-to-do is a futile instrument in the solution of the problems created by the relations of capital and labor. It is a conservator of vested interests and worships the god of things as they are, and until the church re-establishes Christ's principles of social relations, human and industrial justice must remain a mere figure of speech. From my point of view as a newspaper man, the churches of America, alike in the Republic and the Dominion, have, in the past, been in danger of losing the national outlook and becoming mere denominations of the intellectual and the well-to-do." This was a declaration made by Dr. J. A. MacDonald, editor of the Toronto (Ontario) Globe, during an address to the delegates to the general assembly of the International Christian Endeavor convention recently held here.

COAL COMPANY ORGANIZED.

Denver Colo., Nov. 29.—A large coal company in the Northern Colorado coal fields, where a strike has been on for three years, has resumed operations with a force of 190 union miners. The company in question withdrew from the coal syndicate, which is fighting the United Mine Workers of America, and will henceforth operate as an independent concern. The Coal Company in question had some financial difficulty owing to its refusal to abide by the nonunion syndicate program, and the Company has been reorganized and will hereafter run as a union company. This is a distinct victory for the strikers, and will materially assist in the mine workers' efforts to secure a settlement of the difficulty in the entire field.

TROLLEYMEN GET AGREEMENT.

Edmonton, Can., Nov. 29.—The Trolleymen's Union officials have reached an agreement with the Civic Commissioners which concedes full recognition of the union and provides for the observance of the seniority principle. The old scale of wages was renewed and the agreement extended until April 31, 1914.

FOR UNION OF STORE WORKERS.

New York, Nov. 29.—It is currently reported that Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst and Mrs. Inez Mulholland Boissevain are active among a number of other suffragists and members of women's labor unions in an attempt to organize the employees of the department stores in this city.

ASK CONGRESS TO ACT.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Resolutions are being adopted by the organized labor movement calling on Congress to investigate the strikes now on in Colorado and Michigan.

DEMAND ENACTMENT OF PLATFORM DECLARATIONS

DO YOUR DUTY NOW

Inform your Senators and Representatives that the Bartlett-Bacon Bills, H. R. 1873 and S. 927 (identical bills), is the legislation you want enacted, without delay and without change, and inform the President or Secretary of the American Federation of Labor what responses you obtain from Senators and Representatives in compliance with your requests. ❧ ❧ ❧ ❧

To the Officers and Members of Organized Labor:

Dear Sirs and Brothers: The most favorable opportunity for the successful passage of antitrust and injunction limitation legislation will occur when Congress convenes in December for consideration of general legislation. We feel this to be true for the following reasons:

First. Because tariff and currency legislation will be disposed of by that time.

Second. The Democratic party, now in power, clearly and emphatically declared in its Denver platform of 1908, and again in its Baltimore platform in 1912, that it was in favor of the following legislation limiting the use of the writ of injunction:

"Questions of judicial practice have arisen, especially in connection with industrial disputes. We believe that the parties to all judicial proceedings should be treated with rigid impartiality, and that injunctions should not be issued in any case in which an injunction would not issue if no industrial disputes were involved."

The Democratic Party also declared itself in favor of the right of organization among wage-earners and producers in the following clear and explicit declaration:

"The expanding organization of industry makes it essential that there should be no abridgement of the right of the wage-earners and producers to organize for the protection of wages and the improvement of labor conditions, to the end that such labor organizations and their members should not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade."

The Progressive Party, in its 1912 platform, made the following declaration in behalf of injunction limitation:

"We believe that the issuance of injunctions in cases arising out of labor disputes should be prohibited when such injunctions would not apply when no labor disputes existed."

The Progressive party also declared in favor of the organization of the workers in the following clear-cut expression:

"We favor the organization of the workers, men and women, as a means of protecting their interests and of promoting their progress."

The present (Sixty-third) Congress has already placed itself on record as being opposed to the prosecution of the organizations of the workers under the antitrust appropriation section of the Sundry Civil bill by enacting the following provisos in that measure:

"Provided, however, that no part of this money shall be expended in the prosecution of any organization or individual for entering into any combination or agreement having in view the increasing of wages, the shortening of hours, or bettering the condition of labor, or for any act done in furtherance thereof not in itself unlawful,

"Provided further, that no part of this appropriation shall be expended for the prosecution of producers of farm products or associations of farmers from co-operating or organizing in the effort to obtain and maintain a fair and reasonable price for their products."

President Wilson signed the Sundry Civil bill, which contained the above provisos.

By the above action, in an appropriation bill, the Sixty-third Congress has practically declared itself in favor of substantive legislation in behalf of the inherent rights of the workers and producers to organize for the protection of their industrial interests.

On April 7, 1913, Representative Charles L. Bartlett, of Georgia, introduced a bill, known as H. R. 1873, and on April 15, 1913, Senator Augustus O. Bacon of Georgia introduced bill, S. 927, which is identical to the Bartlett bill, and both are for the purpose of making lawful agreements between employes and laborers, and persons engaged in agriculture or horticulture, and to limit the issuance of injunctions in certain cases, and for other purposes. Copy of this bill is appended.

The Rochester convention, in November, 1912, by unanimous vote, declared that the Bartlett-Bacon bill would, in the main, accomplish the purpose for which the American Federation of Labor has been striving, and recommended that the Executive Council and the Legislative Committee do everything within their power to secure the enactment of this bill into law. **The convention further recommended that the international and national organizations and their officers and members communicate with Senators and Representatives to this end.**

It was further recommended by the convention that the State organizations and the city central bodies urge the agitation of a similar statute in the several States.

The vital importance and the pressing need of the proposed legislation covered by the Bartlett-Bacon bill in behalf of the most essential rights of the workers and producers, require that every possible effort should be exerted by all our organizations and friends to urge their Senators and Representatives to enact this legislation at the next session of Congress.

We therefore urge that during the recess of Congress and the approaching holidays, when Senators and Representatives will be at their homes, **that suitable arrangements be made by the national, State, and city central bodies of organized labor to personally interview them and urge early and favorable action on the Bartlett-Bacon bills when they return to Washington.** Such personal interviews should be supplemented by special meetings at which resolutions favoring the Bartlett-Bacon bills should be adopted. Individual members and sympathetic friends should be urged to co-operate by writing personal letters to their Senators and Representatives, in which the true attitude of the organized workers will be completely expressed. In short, let all the Senators and Representatives in the Sixty-third Congress be given to understand that the main political issue in which Labor is interested is to **take the organizations of the workers out of the antitrust act, and to stop the courts from issuing unwarranted injunctions against laborers during industrial disputes.**

Let organized labor all over the country make its wants known clearly and distinctly. The people of the country are in the mood to stand true to the cause of justice, of freedom, and the full exercise of the rights of man. If the voice of labor be heard clearly, emphatically, and insistently, the remedial legislation incorporated in the Bartlett-Bacon bill will be enacted.

There is an evident desire on the part of a great majority of the members of Congress to enact legislation conforming to platform declarations. If the organized labor movement, through its officers, members, and friends, calls the attention of these Congressmen to the fact that the American Federation of Labor urges the enactment of the Bartlett-Bacon bills, the assistance thus rendered will materially aid in promptly securing the enactment of these bills.

Inform your Senators and Representatives that the Bartlett-Bacon bills, H. R. 1873 and S. 927 (identical bills), is the legislation you want enacted, without delay and without change, and inform this office what responses you obtain from Senators and Representatives in compliance with your requests.

With best wishes for success,

Fraternally yours,

Saml Gompers.

PRESIDENT.

Attest:

Frank Morrison

SECRETARY.

JAMES DUNCAN, First Vice-President,
JOHN MITCHELL, Second Vice-President,
JAMES O'CONNELL, Third Vice-President,
D. A. HAYES, Fourth Vice-President,
WM. D. HUBER, Fifth Vice-President,
JOS. F. VALENTINE, Sixth Vice-President,
JOHN R. ALPINE, Seventh Vice-President,
H. B. PERHAM, Eighth Vice-President,
JOHN B. LENNON, Treasurer,
Executive Council American Federation of Labor.

LABOR WANTS THIS BILL PASSED

The following is a verbatim copy of the bill H. R. 1873 and S. 927 favored by the American Federation of Labor, for the purpose of exempting organizations of labor and farmers from the Antitrust Act and preventing the issuance of injunctions against working people during labor disputes:

To Make Lawful Certain Agreements Between Employes and Laborers, and Persons Engaged in Agriculture or Horticulture, and to Limit the Issuing of Injunctions in Certain Cases, and for Other Purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall not be unlawful for persons employed or seeking employment to enter into any arrangements, agreements, or combinations with the view of lessening the hours of labor or of increasing their wages or of bettering their condition; nor shall any arrangements, agreements, or combinations be unlawful among persons engaged in horticulture or agriculture when made with the view of enhancing the price of agricultural or horticultural products; and no restraining order or injunction shall be granted by any court of the United States, or by any judge thereof, in any case between an employer and employe, or between employers and employes, or between persons employed and persons seeking employment, or involving or growing out of a dispute concerning terms or conditions of employment in any case, or concerning any agreement, arrangement, or combination of persons engaged in horticulture or agriculture with the view of enhancing prices as aforesaid, or any act or acts done in pursuance thereof, unless in either case said injunction be necessary to prevent irreparable injury to property or to a property right of the party making the application, for which there is no adequate remedy at law; and such property or property right must be particularly described in the application, which must be sworn to by the applicant or by his agent or attorney.

In construing this act, the right to enter into the relation of employer and employe, to change that relation and to assume and create a new relation of employer and employe, and to perform and carry on business in such relation with any person in any place or do work and labor as an employe shall be held and construed to be a personal and not a property right. In all cases involving the violation of the contract of employment by either the employe or employer, where no irreparable damage is about to be committed upon the property or property right of either, no injunction shall be granted, but the parties shall be left to their remedy at law.

Sec. 2. That no person or persons who are employed or seeking employment or other labor shall be indicted, prosecuted, or tried in any court of the United States for entering into any arrangements, agreements, or combinations between themselves as such employes or laborers, made with a view of lessening the number of hours of labor or increasing their wages or bettering their condition, or for any act done in pursuance thereof, unless said act is in itself unlawful; nor shall any person or persons who may enter into any arrangements or agreements or combinations among themselves for the purpose of engaging in horticulture or agriculture with a view of enhancing the price of agricultural or horticultural products be indicted, prosecuted, or tried in any court of the United States on account of making or entering into such arrangements, agreements, or combinations, or any act done in pursuance thereof, unless said act is in itself unlawful.

EVERY Secretary of a Local Union is urged to read this Urgent Plea to his Union. Every Local Union is urged to take the action suggested. Let every Trade Unionist respond to the necessity of the occasion. If Trade Unionists make a united, persistent demand for the passage of the Bartlett-Bacon Bills they will be passed. DO YOUR DUTY NOW.